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Describes parts. Explains installation. Shows complete line of
mater bike accessories. Also pictures the racemaker, a complete
meter bike. Write "WHIZZER," Pentiac, Michigan.

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# Whats Batteries?

# **AUTO-LITE Sta-ful** BATTERY...needs water only 3 times a year\*

A revolutionary new development, the Auto-Lite "Sta-ful" Battery, protects you against a major cause of battery failure . . . damage to plates due to liquid loss. This new "Sta-ful" Battery design permits a liquid reservoir with 3 times the capacity of ordinary batteries . . . keeps plates fully covered and active months longer in normal car use.

In addition, "Sta-ful" has extra plates for greater electrical capacity . . . Fibre-glass mats to hold the power-producing material in those plates for longer battery life. To get more for your battery dollars, replace with an Auto-Lite "Sta-ful". Money cannot buy a better battery.

AUTO-LITE BATTERY CORPORATION Toledo 1 Ohia



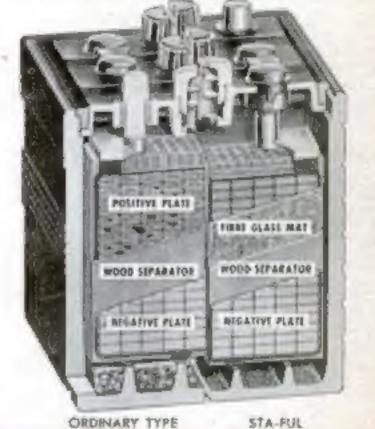
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Because of a unique construction, the new Auto-Lite "Sto-ful" Bottery holds more than I times the liquid reserve of ordinary batteries. DAGGGE

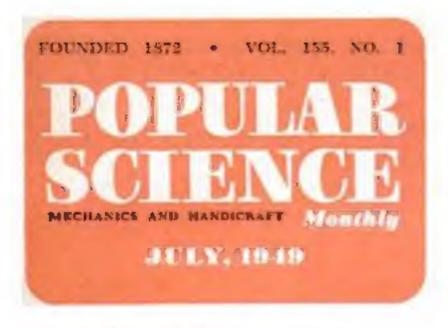
ORDINARY TYPE

STA-FUL

Note how the protective Fibre glass mot retains the power-producing material in the positive plate while ordinary battery plates shed the active material until it fills the sediment well.



Sta-ful Batteries



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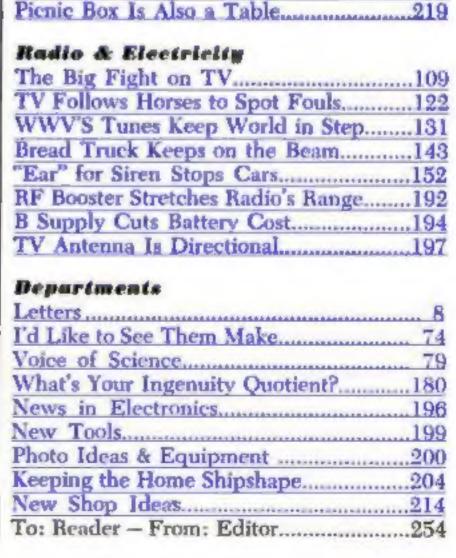


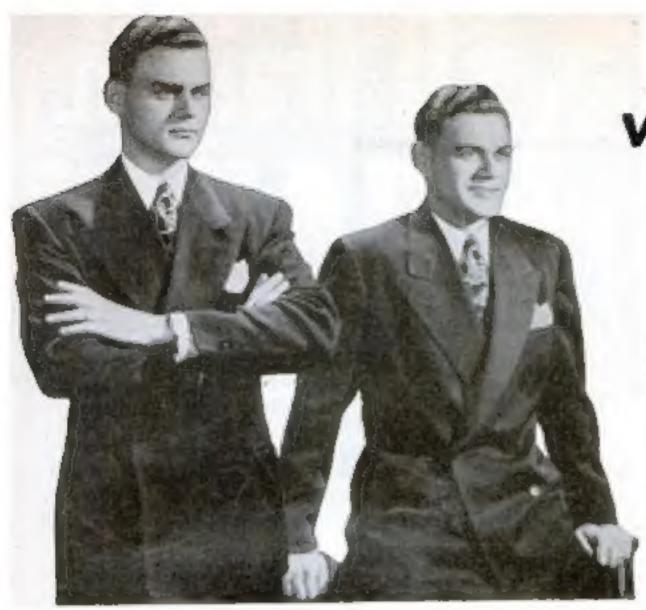
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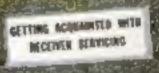
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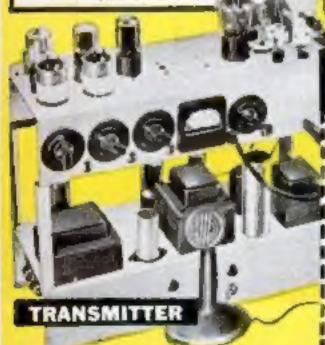
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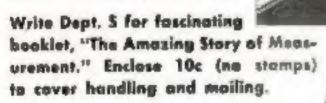


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POPULAR SCIENCE

### Letters



#### Blackett on the Bomb

Sir:

I fully understand that there are many points in my exposition [of the atomic bomb's role in a war between major powers] that are open to doubt and criticism. You are certainly correct in supposing that certain key target systems such as oil might be a vulnerable point in a country's defense. Clearly if this is so, then the defending country is likely to be extremely secret about the location of its reserves, storage, plants, etc. It is not possible to be quite sure what would happen in a future war with atomic bombing against Russia, and it is possible that the Russian oil industry could be effectively destroyed. However, I do not feel that this is by any means certain. P. M. BLACKETT

The Physical Laboratories
The University, Manchester, England

Nobel-prize-winner Blackett is the author of "Fear, War, and the Bomb." His views were summarized and criticized in PS (May '49, p. 124).

#### Old Idea, New Difference

Sir:

"convertible" type idea is not new, but was used by Studebaker almost twenty-five years ago, PS, May, page 134. The Studebaker Duplex Phaeton came in three sizes: Standard Six, Special Six, and the Big Six. The price of the Special Six sedan as of November 1924 was \$2,150. The price of the Special Six Duplex Phaeton was \$1,495, nearly \$700 less. Today, the fixed convertible models sell for as much as \$1,000 more than the sedan models.

JAMES M. STRONG, JR. West Hartford, Conn.

#### How to Make a Moon

Sir:

Willy Ley usually has no trouble backing up his statements, and I am curious to see if he can prove one he makes in "Is U. S.



# INVENTORS

Learn how to protect your invention. The U. S. Patent Laws provide that any new and useful art, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may be patented if the act of invention is involved. Therefore, every inventor with a valuable invention should take advantage of the Patent Laws and proceed for patent protection in order to safeguard his rights.

A patent gives the inventor the exclusive right to prevent others from making, using, or selling the invention claimed in the patent for a period of seventeen years.

The Patent Laws were enacted for the benefit of the inventor to give him protection for the features of his invention which are patentable. These features must be properly and concisely set forth and claimed in a formal application for patent, in order to comply with the requirements of the Patent Laws. For that reason, unless the inventor is familiar with patent matters, he should engage a competent registered patent attorney or agent to represent him. We are registered to practice before the U.S. Patent Office and are prepared to serve you in the handling of your patent matters.

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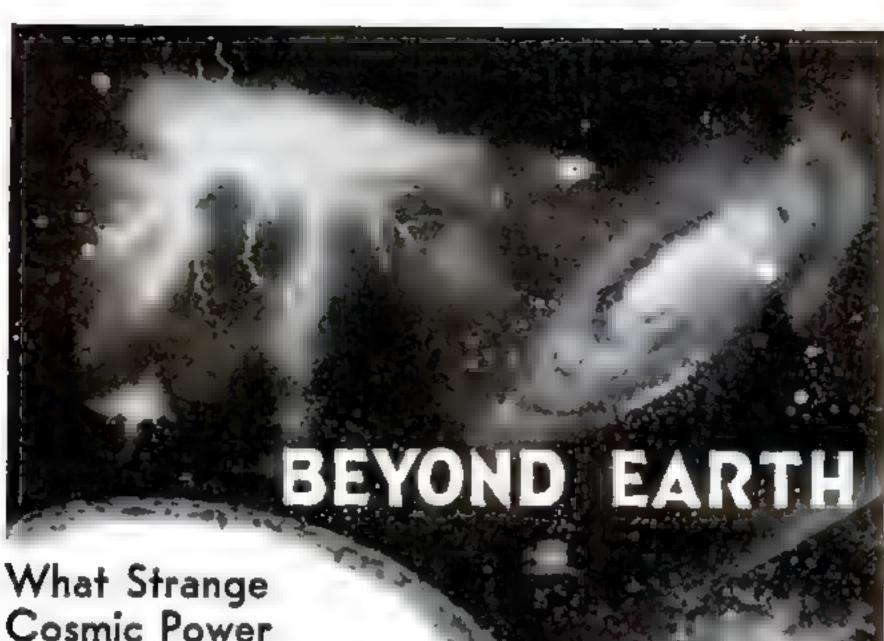
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BY WHAT RIGHT does man presume that he is the chosen being of the universe and that the earth alone shapes his existence? In the infinite spaces above, tenanted by vast and magnifteent worlds, are Cosmic forces which influence the life of every mortal. As iron filings respond to the attraction of a magnet, so too, your acts are the result of an impelling influence upon your will. Just as the unseen Cosmic rays give the earth form and substance, so too, from the infinite reaches, an invisible subtle energy affects the thought processes of every human. Life itself bows to this strange universal force—why, then, should YOU not understand and COMMAND IT? You are like a pendulum either to be swring forward to happiness and the fulfillment of your dreams, or backward into discouragement and disillusionment. Why remain poised in a state of anxiety, uncertainty, and anticipation? Learn to draw to yourself these Coamic forces which will give your mind the creative impetus that will assure the end in life you seek.

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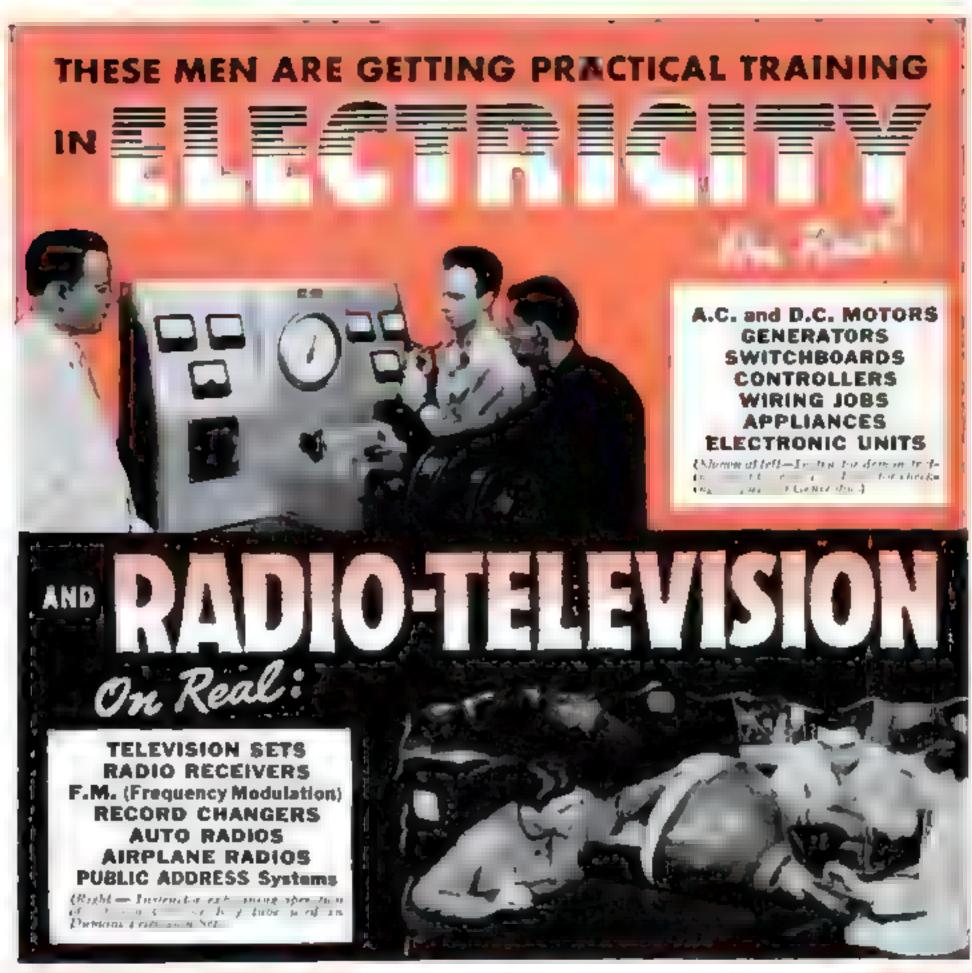
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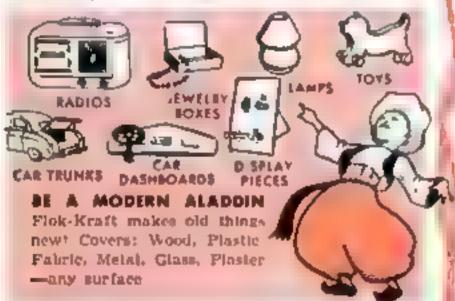
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CITY_	
STATE_	

Building a New Moon" [PS, May '49, p. 106]. He states that a 10,000-m.p h, craft could never slip out of the grip of earth's gravity. If he means that this holds true with those fuels we now have at our disposal, he is probably right.

But we should some day, in the not-too-distant future, perfect an atomic drive for space craft. With an ample fuel source, such as an atomic drive would have, what is to prevent a space craft from accelerating to 10,000 m.p.h. and holding that speed with the power on until it reaches the neutral point of gravitational influence between the earth and the moon, or even Mars or Venus?

NEIL J. CRANDALL

Denver, Colo,

Sir:

haust velocity of five miles per second can easily be reached with hydrogen and oxygen fuel. . . .

DONALD RADFORD WRIGHT Felton, Calif.

Let Willy Ley speak for himself:

Since the whole article was devoted to the proposition of an orbiter with chemical fuels, atomic energy was clearly not under consideration.

The reason for making the rocket a three-step rocket, and for calculating the weights which I used in my article, is that I wanted to show that the orbiter could be established by the use of well known and well tried fuel combinations, namely watered alcohol and liquid oxygen. I know, too, that hydrogen will produce higher exhaust velocities—in fact almost three times as high as those used in my calculations. But it is not yet a well tried fuel; we don't know how long the motor would stand up.

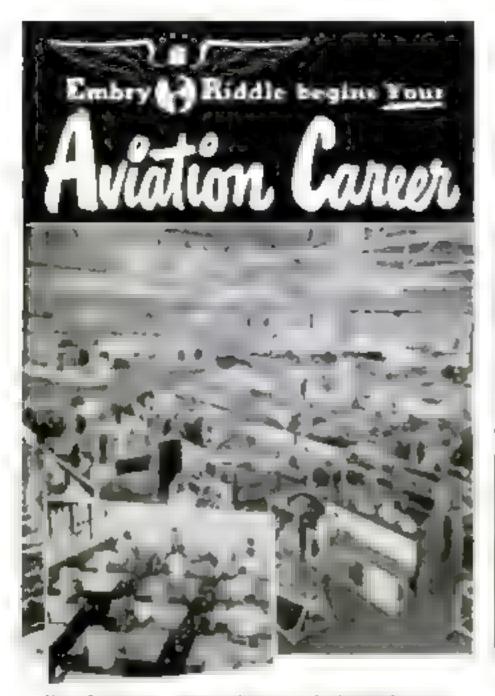
Besides, hydrogen is not quite as wonderful as its high exhaust velocity may seem to indicate. Because it is of very low density, even when liquid, the rocket would need very large tanks, which would reduce the ratio between take-off weight and dead weight.

#### PS Bird House Wins Prize

Sir:

I've always wanted to write and tell you how I enjoy your magazine and how useful it always is. I've been reading your maga-





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zine smee I was a boy in school and still do. It also is such an inspiration to my son and keeps him busy doing and making projects from plans in the magazine, for which I am very thankful. My son recently built a birdhouse from plans in your April issue [p. 197] and won first prize for the senior division in a competition sponsored by the Cleveland Bird Club. I have never seen him as happy.

EDWARD L. SEMALA

Cleveland, O.

#### Anyhow, it Was a Good Idea

Sir.

We have noted on page 108 of your February issue, under "I'd like to see them make . . ," a reader's suggestion calling for a "homogenized" paint. We, also, have had our turn thinking about the "ideal paint," which would not settle out of suspension and, as most paints do, form a hard cake of pigment on the bottom of the can. The idea grew and became so compelling that we got busy and produced just such a paint. CALVIN C. WOLFE

National Paint Co., Seattle, Wash,

Sir:

. . . We have been making homogenized paint for a year and a half, . . .

ROBERT M. LONGMAN

Longman & Martinez, Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### Envice Way to Eigh

I read with interest your article "How to Etch Aluminum" [PS, April '49, p. 200]. I have done many etchings on copper, zme, and aluminum. As the authors point out, the usual method is to employ an acidusually muriatic (hydrochloric) to etch the surface of the plate. This is necessary for copper. However, with either zine or aluminum there is a much faster and sampler etching solution that I have found extremely satisfactory. This is a solution of cupric chloride, or so-called copper chloride. It comes as a blue powder or crystals and is much safer and easier to handle than an acid solution.

To use, you merely put two or three teaspoonfuls in about a half to a pint of water (the amount is not critical), in which it is

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readily soluble. Then the prepared plate is flooded with the solution and almost immediately bubbles of gas will appear, showing the metal is being acted upon.

The total time for this operation is only a few minutes—depending upon the strength of the solution. I have often completed a "biting" in three minutes. Also, there are no fumes or obnoxious smells.

HORACE F. W. WARDEN, M.D. Dearborn, Mich.

#### Emergency Zipper Repair

Sir

Your article on fixing zippers [PS, April '49, p. 209] shows a perfect repair job but does not give the answers for a quick remedy in an emergency. I have worked out two such answers

Where tools are available, the slide can be opened wide and reinstalled at the "open" end. By clamping it shut there, the job of closing the zipper is climinated.

Where tools are not available, it is possible to put the slide back on the track by cutting the track near the "open" end and starting this into the slide. This emergency method proved very useful to me when a trousers zipper failed during a train journey.

O. A. HANSEN

Kenmore, N. Y. .

#### PS Takes a Trip

Sir

In March, 1947. I heard over the radio an appeal for packages of food or clothing for Europe. The station offered to supply names and addresses of persons in practically every country.

Holland was always an interesting country to me—because of the wooden shoes and windmills, I guess; so I wrote for the name of a family in Holland. I got the name of a man who had been a POW in Germany for nearly five years. The letter said that he and his wife had three children.

I made up a package of foodstuffs, including plenty of candy and bubble gum, and slipped into it an issue of POPULAN SCIENCE. Two months later I got a letter by air mail stating that he had received my package and that WONDERFUL MAGAZINE. Now I send him some about every three months.

FORREST G. IRWIN

Springfield, O.

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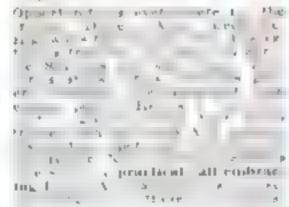
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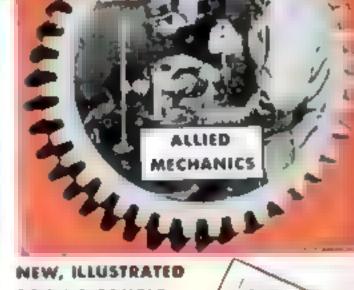


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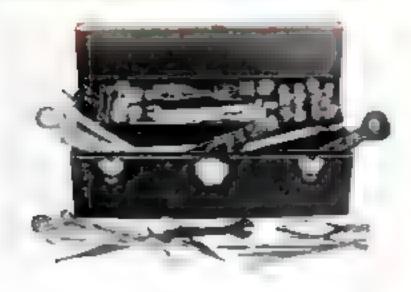


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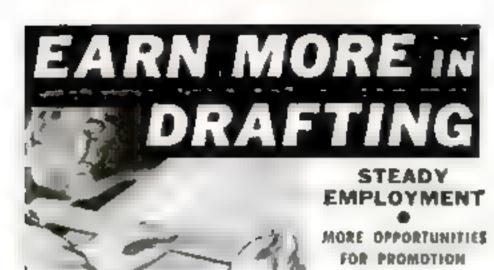
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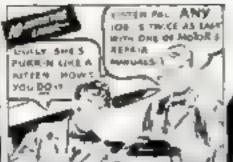
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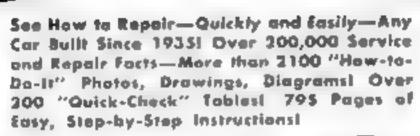






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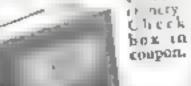
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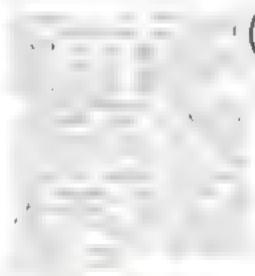
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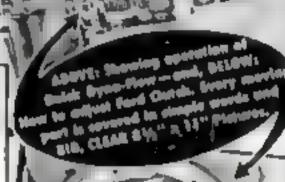


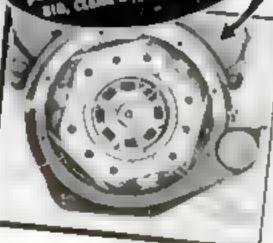
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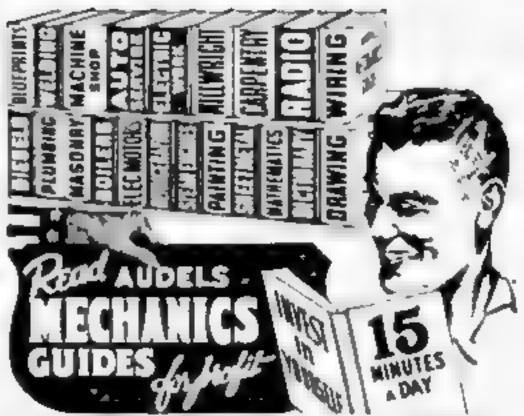
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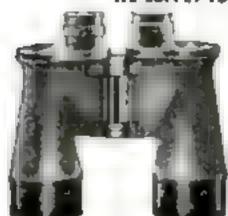
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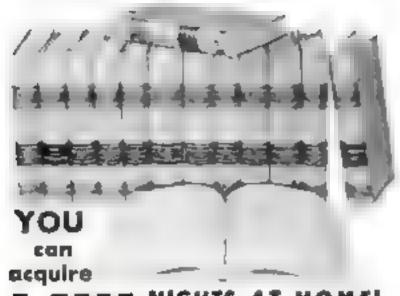
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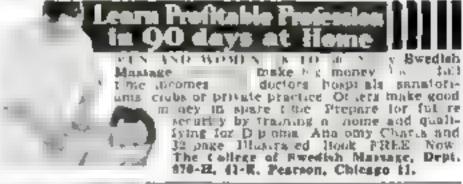
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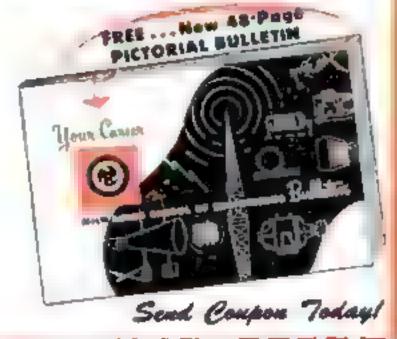
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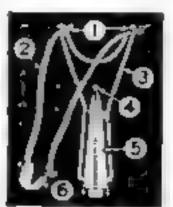
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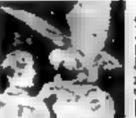
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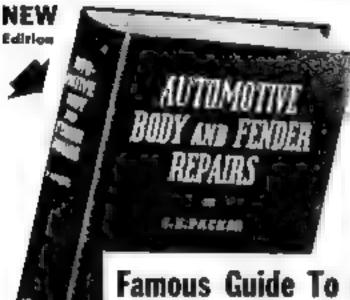
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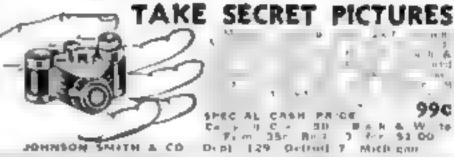
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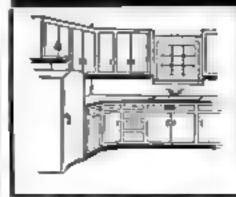


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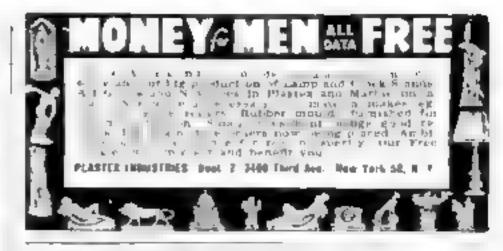
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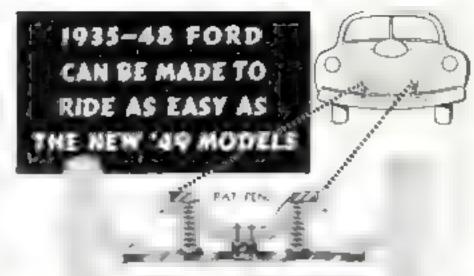
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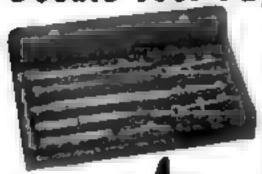
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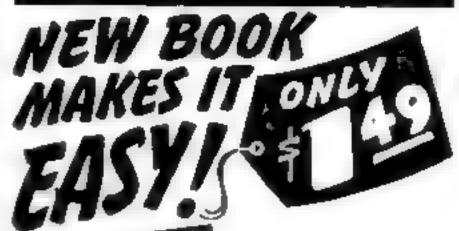
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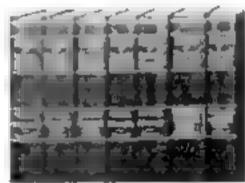
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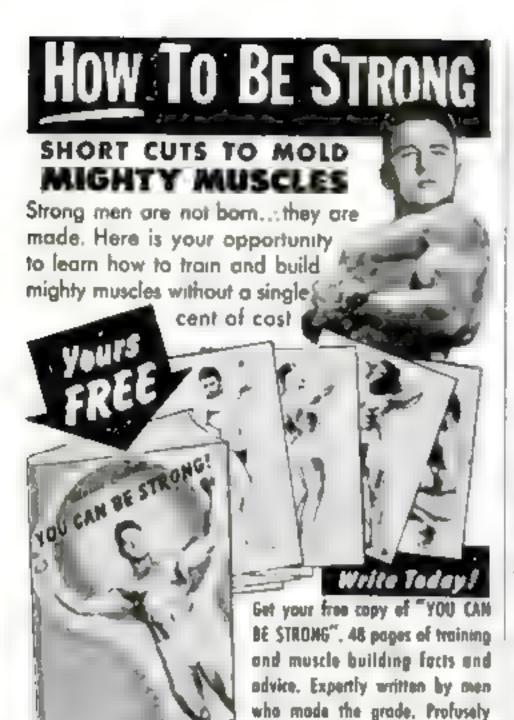
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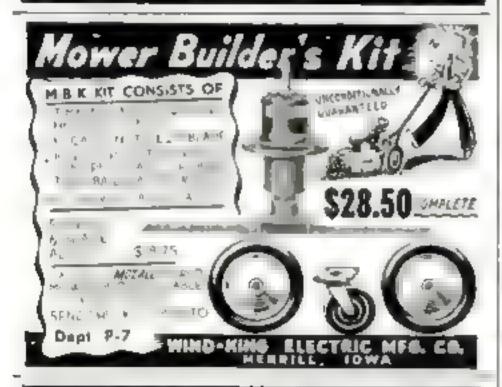
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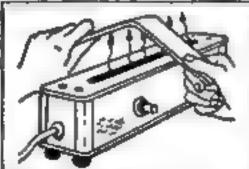
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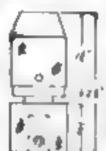
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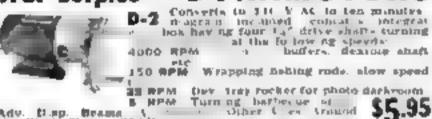
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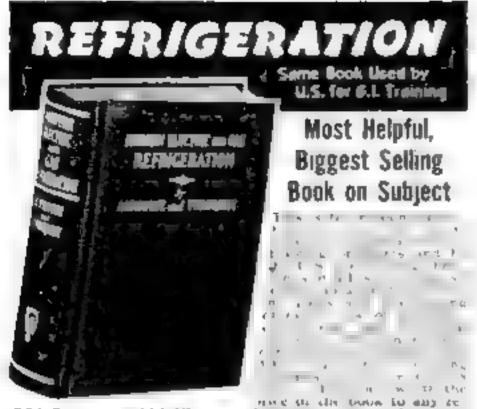




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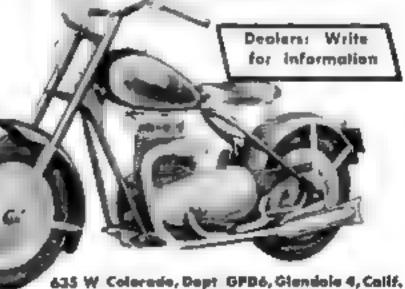
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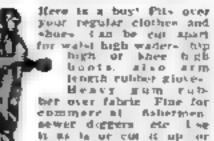
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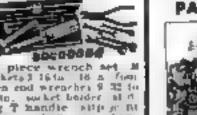
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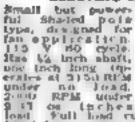
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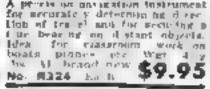


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The man, a well-known explorer and geographer, tells how he found these strange methods in far-off and mysterious Tibet, often called the land of miracles by the few travelers permitted to visit it. He discloses how he learned rare wisdom and long hidden practices, closely guarded for three thousand years by the sages, which enabled many to perform amazing feats. He maintains that these immense powers are latent in all of us, and that methods for using them are now simplified so that they can be used by almost any person with ordinary intelligence.

He maintains that man, instead of being limited by one-man-power-mind, has within him the mind-power of a thousand men or more as well as the energy-power of the universe which can be used in his daily affairs. He states that this sleeping giant of mind-power, when awakened, can make man capable of surprising accomplishments, from the prolonging of youth to success in many fields. Strangely, he says that this power works best while we sleep, when proper methods are used,

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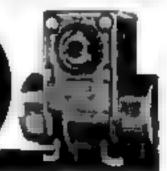
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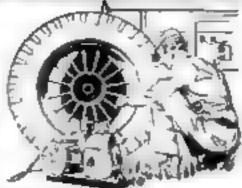
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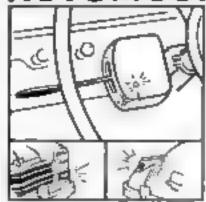
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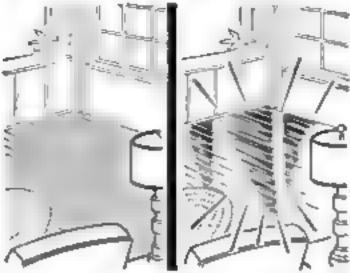


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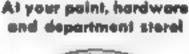
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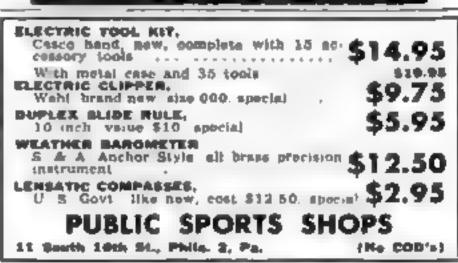
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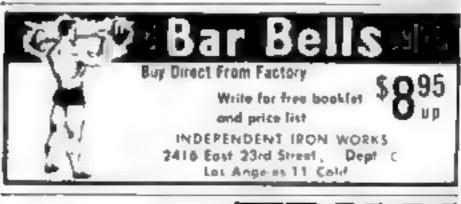
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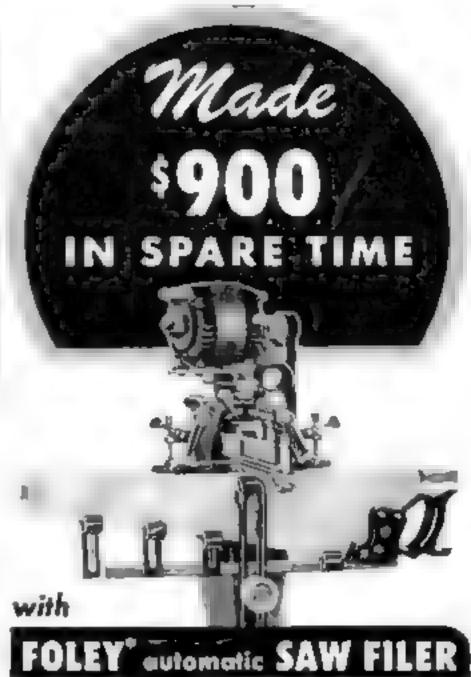
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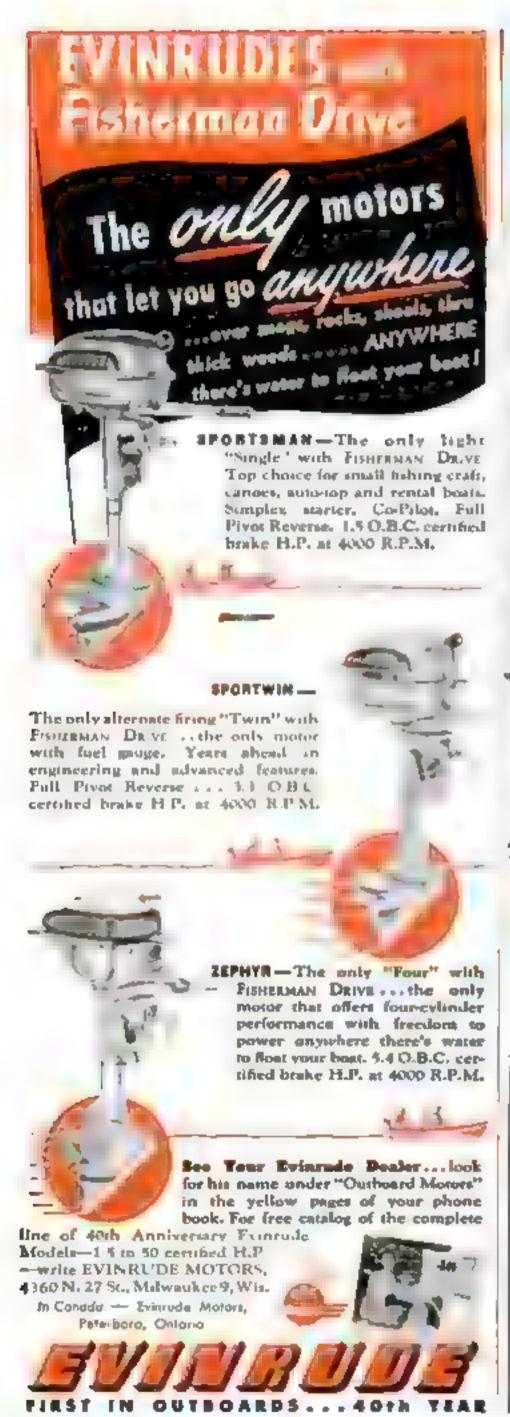
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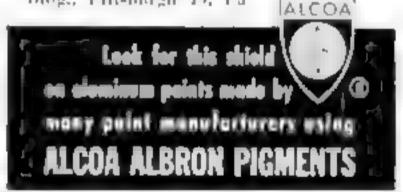
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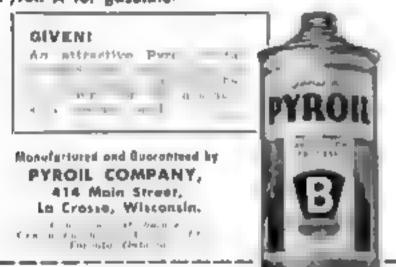
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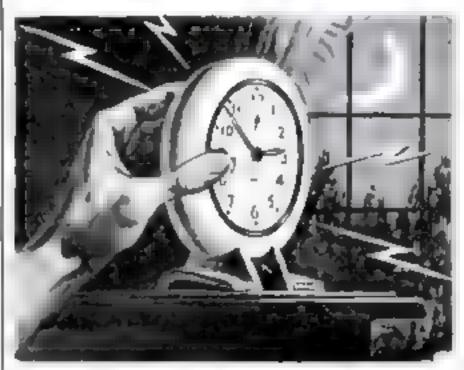


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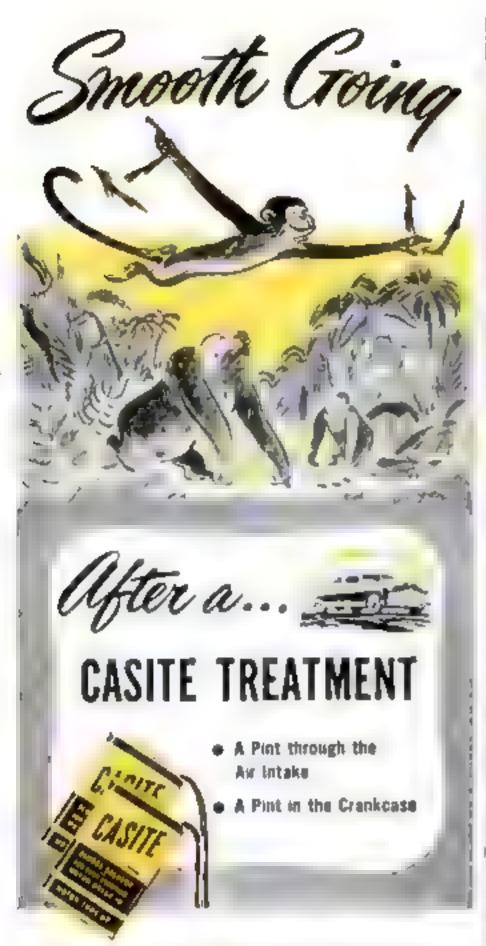


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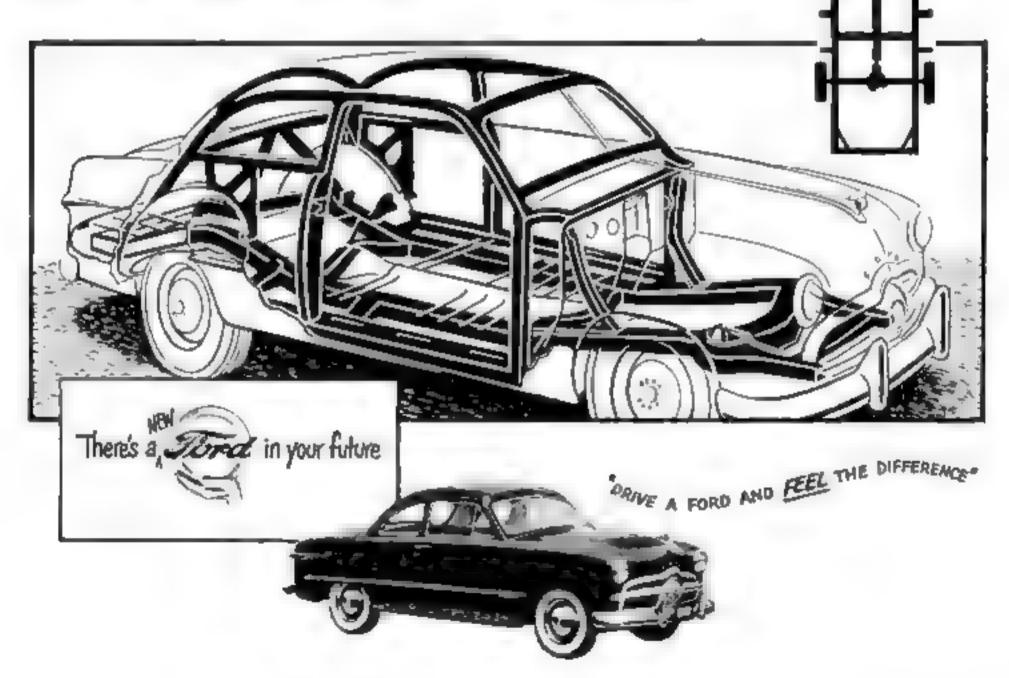
# There's a new "feel" in driving and only Ford has it!

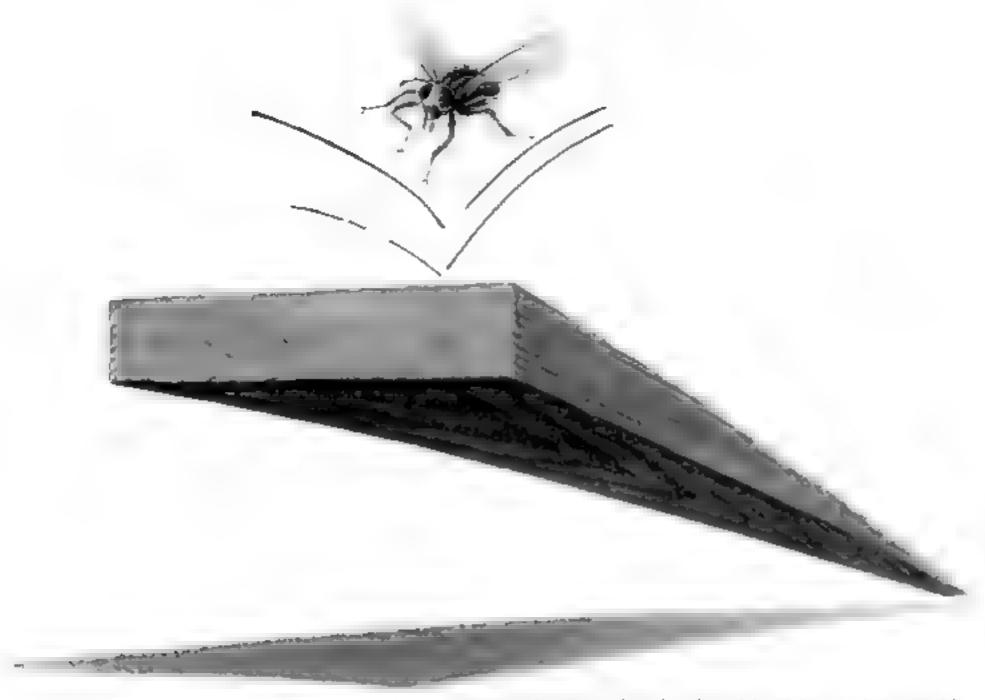
One of the most important parts of this new Ford "Feel" is the sense of solidity and strength that comes from the new Ford frame and body. Side rails of the new frame are box-section, and there are five sturdy cross members for even greater strength. (Convertibles and Station Wagons have even heavier frames.) What's more, the famous "Lifeguard" Body is made of heavy-gauge steel and, combined with the frame, gives 59% more rigidity than ever!

No wonder drivers everywhere are so genuinely enthusiastic about the '49 Ford's remarkable feeling of solid safety and reassuring roadability.

For the new Ford "Feel" is really a brand new kind of driving—with new ease of control, new performance, new security,

new fine car comfort. Try it, and then enjoy the greatest feeling of all—the prideful thrill of owning the "Fashion Car of the Year"...the '49 Ford!





Supersensitive electron tube, developed by RCA, makes possible more accurate measurement of minute vibrations

## Can a housefly make a board bounce?

Surprising though it seems, a fly—when it lands on a board—causes distinct vibrations. They can actually be detected by a remarkable, and supersensitive, new RCA electron tube.

Slimmer than a cigarette, and only haif as long, RCA's tube picks up vibrations with a pensized shaft—and these vibrations may then be converted to visible or audible signals. More important, the new RCA electron tube can be used to measure the degree of vibration.

Scientists predict many practical uses for this electronic transducer. Airplane designers can hitch it to engines or whirling propellers and locate vibrations which might lead to trouble. Oil men can use it to measure the sound waves from explosions with which they scout for oil.

And your smooth-running automobile of the future may be an even better car when the facts gathered by RCA's new tube are put to work.

#### Another RCA "first":

The electronic transducer, first of its kind, is one of many research achievements pioneered at RCA Laboratories. Such leadership in science and engineering adds value beyond price to any product or service of RCA and RCA Victor.

Examples of the newest developments in radio, television and electronics can be seen in action at RCA Exhibition Hall, 36 West 49th St., N. Y. Admission is free. Radio Corporation of America, Radio City, New York 20.



#### RADIO CORPORATION of AMERICA

World Leader in Radio - First in Television



# How to Tell USSR About US



THE heaviest weight in the deheate balance between cold war and warm peace is the lump of plutonium that represents the greatest achievement of Western science and U, S, technology. The atom bomb is a huge and valuable military and political force. But it is not the best representative of the ideas that have made this country great.

Like it or not, we are in a war. It is a war of ideas, but it is probably the deadliest conflict in history because the stake is the sum total of civilization. In this ideological war, we are trying to tell a vital ten percent of the earth's population that our ways of living and working with each other are better people-operations.

We are beaming billions of words at the Eastern peoples. But we are not using the full force of our biggest weapon. We are not putting out enough samples of the product. We are not showing the results of our kind of living and working.

I would like to suggest that the best possible weapon in this ideological war would

be packages of pictures. Pictures of the useful, interesting, enjoyable things and gadgets that are the products and by-products of Western science and U.S. technology.

Pictures of nuclear fission at work—and womanproof can openers; of nylon slips that need no ironing—and garden hose that doesn't soften in the sun or crack in the cold; of washing machines that measure their own soap—and guided missiles that smell their own targets; of shoes that are cheap, wear well, and look good; of ships that move through air or water without worry of waves or weather; of sealing wax that forms a mil-

lion articles we know as "plastic" telephones, raincoats, movie film, paints, chessmen, fountain pens, book bindings, phonograph records, and surgical sutures.

These packages of pictures would not have to be prepared at government expense. The visual proof of democracy at work is already available. The Air Laft could transport these samples of the American Idea. Occupation troops could distribute them.

With no false pride, I suggest that every night we place along the Iron Curtain copies of Popular Science, Popular Mechanics, the Sears, Roebuck catalogue, McCall's, Life, and The Saturday Evening Post.

I think that by morning these samples would have vanished. And I think that, one fine morning, the Iron Curtain would be only a lace curtain.

The success of the Communists is due in part to hungry faith, but in the large to improved material satisfactions. The Russians "never had it so good" mostly because they never had as much before. If we can explain our big ideas in terms of little things, we can make vague beliefs personal and tangible.

In due time, we can explain to the Eastern world (and to ourselves) that these things of our living are only symbols of our life. That our comforts and gadgets are just a pleasant by-product of our belief that we should have a little fun while we are here And that a better life, in span and satisfactions, is a product of better living in terms of sanitation, healthier babies, self-understanding—and good cooking.

Penny Githeres



 Yes...a girl enjoys meeting a man with Pipe Appeal -that extra attractiveness of the man who smokes a pipe. And when a man has "met up" with Prince Albert, he has found a rich-tasting tobacco that's mild and tongue-easy!

WITH RA, YOU CAN

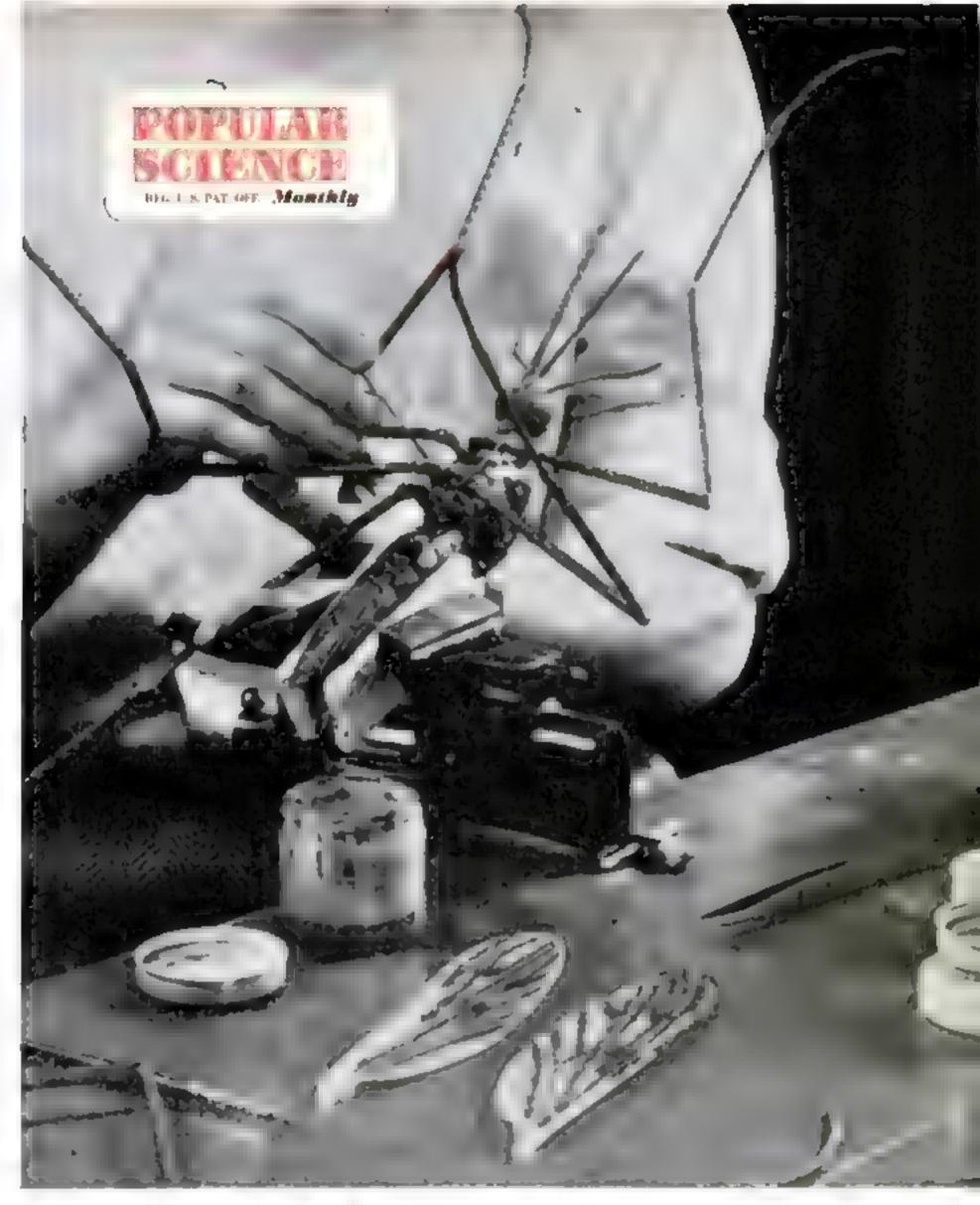
ROLL A BETTER-

TASTING CIGARETTE

 Did you know that P.A.'s choice, crimp cut tobacco is coccially treated to insure against tougue bite? No wonder it's America's largest-selling smoking tobacco! Get P A today for smoking joy and comfort!

R. J. Bernolds Tobacco Co., Wanston-Salem, 20 Ct.





No, it isn't real. This ferocious-looking insect is a model, 25 times life size, of a female Anopheles quadrimaculatus mosquito—the kind that carnes malaria. James E. Trott, artist-preparator in the Department of Zoology at the Chicago Natural History Museum, spent nearly two years making it, frequently working under a microscope with dental drills and other precise tools. The mosquito model, two feet long from leg-tip to leg-tip is made of more than 20,000 separate pieces. The body was carved from acrylic plastic; the surface bristles and scales were reproduced in other plastics or represented by hair. This masterpiece of model-making craftsmanship is one of a series for a museum exhibit on mosquitoes and malaria.

# How You Are Thrilled



Lover drawing Ly Reynold Brinen

Amusement operators work hard to scare you to death—and just as hard to avoid any real dauger.

#### By Devon Francis

THIS menth and all summer tens of milions of Americans including, in all probability, you and your family will ride an world look by contravances at carmivals and amusement parks in the exciting conviction that they are braving death or in

jury, at the least. That's what sells tickets. But it only leaks dangerous

The fact that the "rides' keep looking more hazard we every season is a tribute to the slowm uship of the men who dish up the thrills. They have a credo the successful ride is one that scares the hying day lights out of you without actual danger.

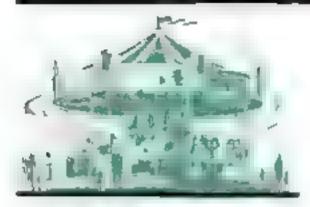


The newer rides this year snap you at mail like end men on crack the whips. Rube Go diverge on the lock that comes, bounce, toller ceaster, drop, said and bramp. They are complicated. Most of them have cages or ears whizzing and whipping around like satellites that seem to have in orbits. Some include a control that fets you in tate an airplane's loops and rolls. One making like a cockleshell in a heavy sea is positively frightening to those of us on the downgrade side of forty. Another has cars that, not content with going up, and down, and

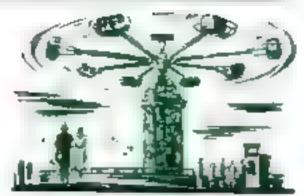
The newer rides this year snap you around circling their centerpole, naive in the content of the

All the so-called 'that most like meany go-rounds and most acreal rides oftered by 350 traveling earnivals and 400 permanent amusement pairs throughout the United States depend on the principle of the centrifuge to make you hang on ter dear life. Whirl a bucket of water around you head and you have a crude centratinge. The outward force exerted depends on three factors—the length of your arm

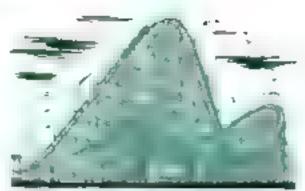
#### THE NEW RIDES ARE VARIATIONS OF THESE THREE



Flat rides—merry-go-round is typical—are pancake-shaped and on the ground. Others: whip and C-Cruise®.



Aerial ride takes you off ground and around centerpole. Height results from action of centrifugal force or lifting device.



Towed, or tracked, ride is only one of three standard types not using the centerpole. Roller coaster is example.

the weight of the bucket, and the speed of rotation. "Carneys" and amusement parks take full advantage of these facts of physics.

The backbone of these rides is the steel centerpole, beefed up to take heavy stresses. From the pole radiate arms to hold makebelieve boats, airplanes, or tubs. These are called "buckets." The buckets may revolve in the air or ride on rails.

Surprising variations have dressed up the standard rides in the last decade, as carney and park operators demanded new thrills for their ticket-choppers to offer you. Two of the largest manufacturers and originators of rides are the National Amusement Device Co., of Dayton, O., and the Allan Herschell Co., of North Tonawanda, N. Y.

Some of the new breath-stealing aerial rides are tilted 45 degrees off the horizontal. This provides a zoom-up that is much like the chandelle maneuver in an airplane. If you don't want your stomach in your lap,

you'd better not buy a ticket to this one.

One ride makes you clutch for support by a simple expedient. It alters the shape of a triangle described by the centerpole, the support arms for the buckets, and a cable connecting the buckets to the centerpole above the arms. A crank pulling first at one bucket and then another squeezes and opens two sides of the triangle to make the buckets go up and down.

Another gives you a choice. If you want to ride around sedately, as on a Ferris wheel, you just sit there. But if you want to go end-over-end, all you have to do is operate a brake that freezes your car to its axle. This is not recommended to the faint-hearted. Still another ride, a variation of one that has been on the market for years, lets you barrel-roll with a control connected to out-size ailerons in the windstream.

Selling thrills with safety depends on supervision, vigilance, maintenance, and

#### MERRY-GO-ROUND IS MOST POPULAR FLAT RIDE

Simplest and one of the most popular of all the flat rides is the merry-go-round. The platform is turned by the motor through a gear train that surrounds the centerpole but is not coupled

to it. The horses are made to move up and down by cranks connected to the motor through auxiliary gearing that is attached to centerpole. Reins, straps, other devices assure safety.



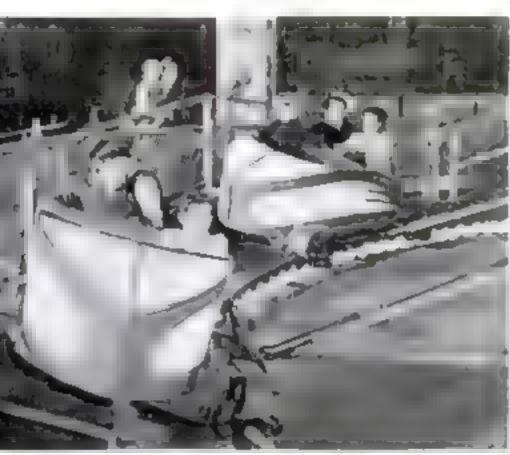


elaborate safety devices. Maintenance is such a fetish that each spring the magazine Billboard, bible of the industry, religiously runs articles on keeping index in condition.

Every morning before opening time, mechanics go over each nut, bolt, and stay wire of all rides. They grease and oil, Roller coasters get an especially thorough going-over. Men "walk road"—every foot of the ride—just like trackwalkers for the railroads. And a good master mechanic can tell just from the sound of a ride whether it's working properly.

Even a casual eye and ear can detect some of the safety devices. Look at the iron bar against your stomach in a roller-coaster car. It keeps you from standing up. It can be released only by an attendant, or by a metal-stripped wooden dog alongside the track just short of the unloading platform. Listen to the car as it is drawn up the incline for the first dip. That clicking noise is a dog tripping over a ratchet. If the propelling chain should break, the train can slide back under gravity exactly two inches, no more. The chain itself has a safety device that keeps it from sliding downhill if it breaks.

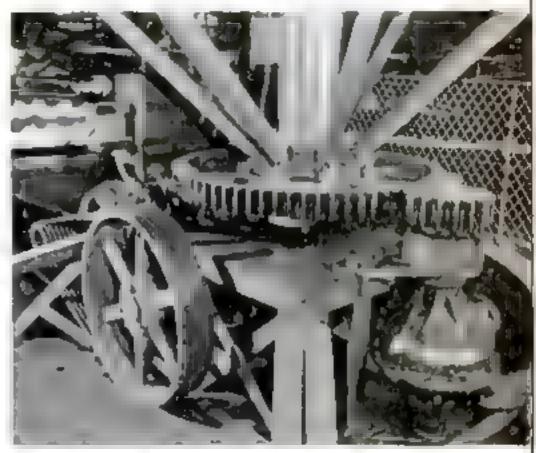
Ruller-coaster cars have three types of wheels in contact with the rails: wheels to



C-Cruise, made by C-Cruise Corp., West Salem, Ore., simulates boat's motion in heavy sea with hilly double track. Rocking motion is caused by mis-matching heights of opposing mils.

Pipe skids welded to boat support it on rails in case an axle breaks. Holes in wheel housing were found necessary for cooling the moldedrubber cushioning inserts in the wheels.



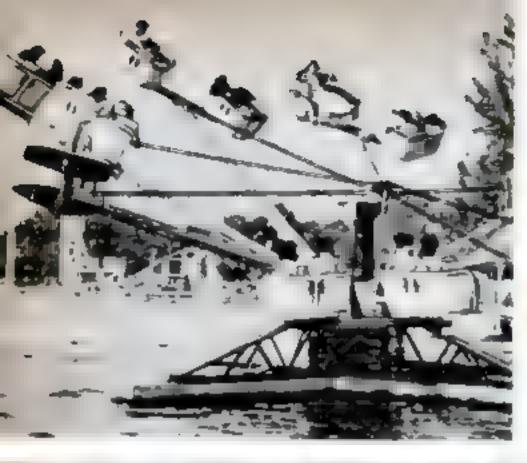


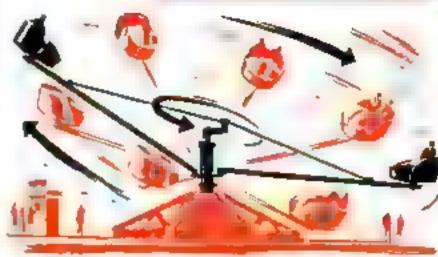
Power is supplied by a 15-hp, motor, driving belt and auto type of gear. Sturdy support arms from centerpole hold hinged sweep arms that drive cars around the 46-foot circle.

Another safety device is chain to keep car in motion if sweep arm breaks at attachment point. Extra wheels inside rails, like those on roller coaster, prevent cars from shifting sideways.

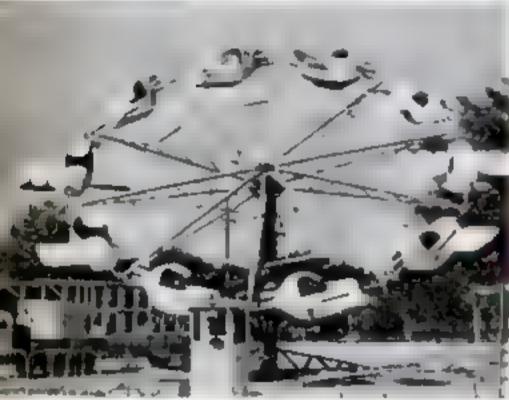


#### NEW AERIAL RIDES MAKE





The Octopus has two centerpoles, one inside the other. The outer centerpole whirls the buckets. The inner one has a crank turning in the opposite direction. It pulls on cable to make the buckets move up and down. This ride is made by Eyerly Aircraft Co., Salem, Ore.





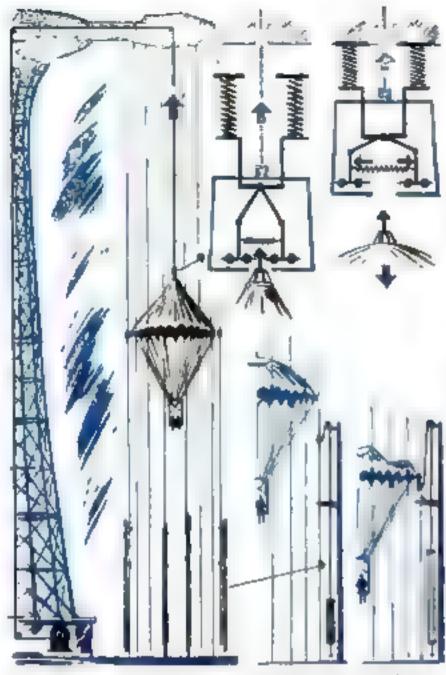
On Spitfire, planes travel in circle inclined at 45 degrees to centerpole to simulate diving, climbing. Passenger can move big ailcrons to make plane barrel-roll—rotate on its long axis. Frank Hrubetz & Co., Salem, Ore., makes it





The Rock-O-Plane® is a Ferris wheel with a difference. A hand control locks the car to its axle so that it can no longer turn on the axle and remain upright. That means the car does a slow loop. An automatic safety bar clamps across inder's lap when the door is closed, holding him in his seat even when upside down.

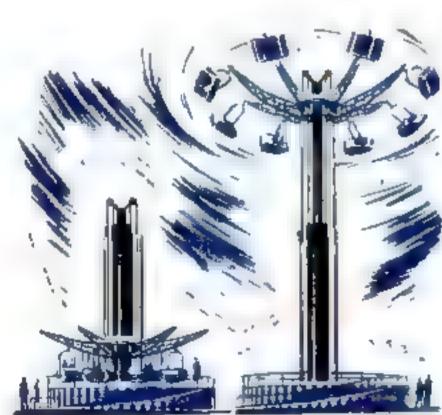
#### YOU FEEL YOU'RE FLYING



Parachute jump at Concy Island's Steeplechase Park, only ride of its kind in U. S., hoists a deflated 'chite 250 feet up. When individual release mechanism (like a cupboard catch) hits top of tower, arms slide apart, permitting



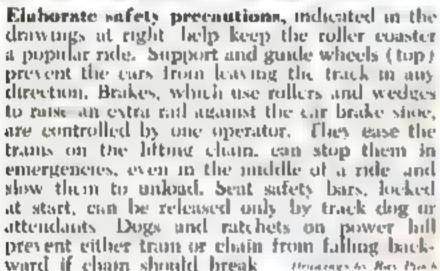
the spearbke book attached to the parachute to drop out. The released 'clinte then falls free, but its path is guided by eight cables. Near the ground, the rim of the 'clinte is caught by rubber shock cords that cushion the landing.



The Hi-Bull<sup>®</sup> has several tricks. While buckets whirl, a piston under 500-lb, oil pressure extends the telescoping centerpole, rusing the passengers 52 feet. The operator can adjust rotation speed, Above 10 r.p.m., centrifugal force makes the buckets slide from midpoint of support arms up the curve to the very tip.



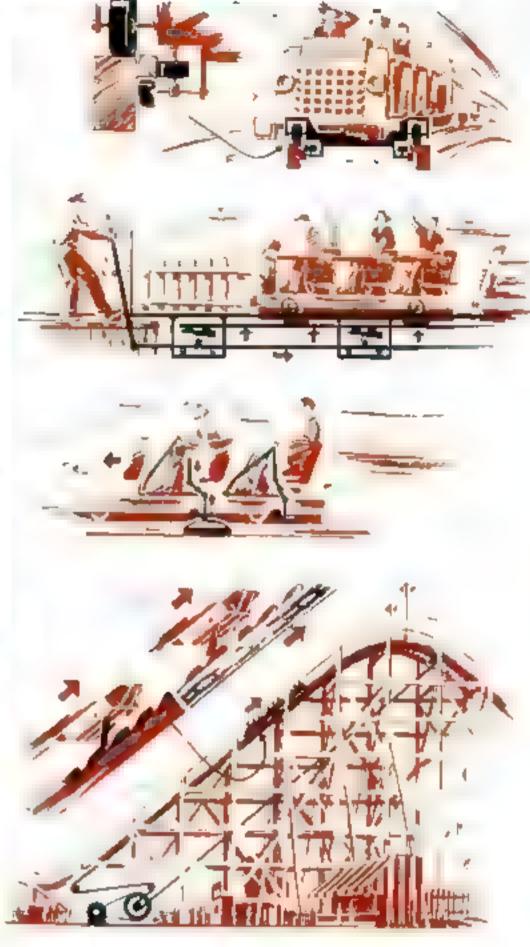




carry the weight of the buckets, undertrack wheels to keep them from flying upward off the track, and side-friction wheels to help keep them on course

#### Thrill Hills Built of Wood

And don't worry if the structure of the 'coaster is made of wood. That at Steeple-chase Park, in Brooklyn's Coney Island, like hundreds of others in parks from Maine to California, is built of a special kind of wood—straight-grain, long-leaf, yellow pine. Wood is used because it makes better curves, hills, and valleys. It shapes to a template easier than metal. The track at Steeple-



IS THRILLING TOWED RIDE

chase, one of the oldest of U. S. amusement parks, consists of five layers of structural tumbers, each two inches thick and eight wide. It is bolted and nailed to uprights called bent posts. Every second bent post in the layout could be removed, and the structure still would take the stresses imposed by a fully-loaded, three-car train weighing more than 16 tons and attaining a top speed of 60 miles an hour.

Even the merry-go-round, perennal favorite with the public, has its assortment of safety gimmicks. There are straps to hold the kids on the horses; reins, stirrups, and an individual centerpole to grasp. And if you

glance down to the platform at the point where a sleeve encloses the pole, you probably will see a slot cut at a right angle to the ride's direction of travel. That's to allow the horse to "bank." It makes his saddle easier to sit.

The safety problem in rides varies with the type of operation. In carnivals it is complicated by the fact that such shows, which play 2,200 fairs in a 20-week season besides scores of "still dates," or solo appearances, must be mobile. Mobility means light weight, consistent with safety. A ride must be large enough to carry a payload, yet the parts must be small enough to be assembled by the two or three men who run it. It must be easily repaired. That's the reason you will often see standard automobile parts in the gear trains of rides.

Safety in the established amusement park is more easily assured. Bolts, nuts, and cotter pins replace carney quick fastenings.

The manufacturers of the rides take a lot of trouble to contrive new ways to scare the wits out of people without inviting lawsuits. In some cases they build scale models for stress analyses. In full scale they overload the cars with sandbags. Often they deliberately run a ride to destruction to spot any weak points,

But in big parks—like Steeplechase and Chicago's Riverview, with 36 rides each—a new contraption is rarely put into operation just as the cautious manufacturer designed it. The managers look the thing over with a bihous eye. Driving arms welded to the centerpole are beefed up. Chains are added to stop the flight of a car if an arm lets go. Steel tubing is put under a "flat-ride" car to skid it along if an axle breaks.

#### Everybody Gains from Safety Gudgets

The precautions pay off in more than safety for the customers at a single park. Changes that men like Jim Onorato, general manager of Steeplechase, insist on making receive the blessing of the insurance companies. The insurance companies promptly trot around to all the owners of similar rides and "suggest" that they incorporate the changes. They seldom refuse.

Safety, in the end, rests with the carney and park owners, concessionaires, and insurance companies. It's not good business to have accidents. Of the 12,000 to 15,000 American communities that harbor carnivals each season, only a few have officials qualified to pass on the safety of the rides offered



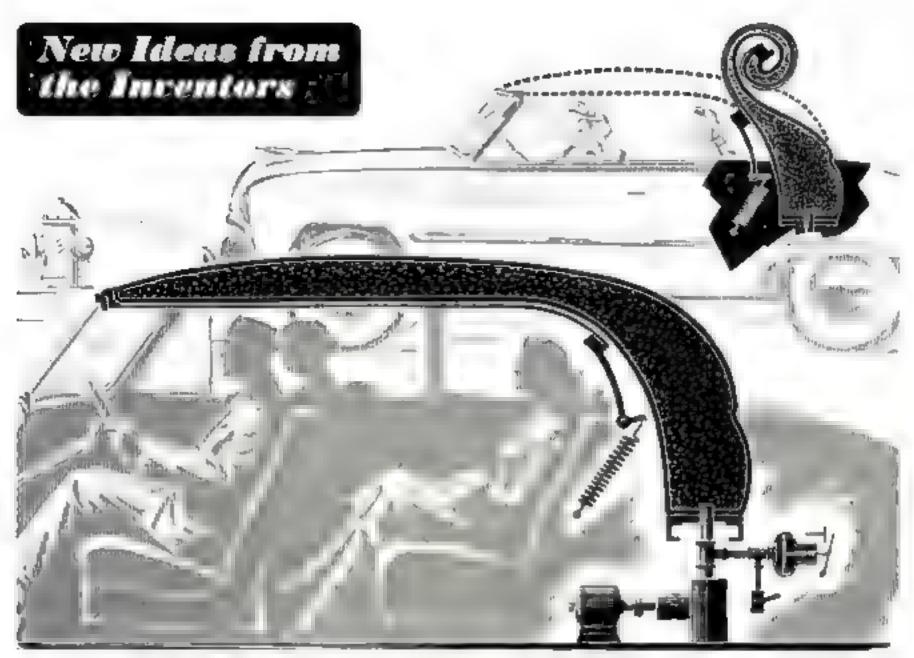
Thrill ride of 100 years ago was Upside-Down House. Patrons had illusion of looping, but room actually revolved around them as they sat suspended in a bucket that never moved at all,

Permanent parks, on the other hand, get a going-over with a fine-tooth comb from city officials before the start of each season. In New York every ride must be relicensed each year, and every operator must have a certificate of competency

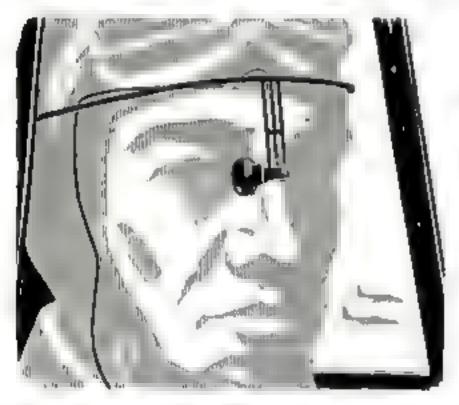
The insurance companies have a big influence on safety. Rates for all the rides in a given category—say merry-go-rounds—are pooled. If an accident occurs—and operators contend accidents are almost always the customer's fault—it increases premiums paid by every owner of a similar ride.

But recently a gentler note has been seen in the amusement ride business—kid rides are growing more and more popular. They are inherently safer because they are slower. All scaled down to the size of the small fry, they include boats, merry-go-rounds, slow-moving airplanes, and even a 14-foot-high roller coaster.

Yet people everywhere enjoy sticking their necks into imaginary danger. Over in India is a raph who has placed an order with a West Coast manufacturer for an "Octopus" ride. It's bound to scare the pants off the rajah's subjects—and they'll love it.



Car Top Inflates. This convertiblecar top blows out into place like a paper snake. Let the air out, and long, flat springs running lengthwise along the underside curl up the top and roll it back into a storage compartment. Inventor F. W. Seckel, of New York City, claims that its pressure and elasticity would make it fit tighter than conventional tops. The cushion of air inside the top is said to help insulate the car.



Mierophone Fits Nose. This pilot is talking through his nose—hterally. His microphone fits over his nose and picks up sound vibrations through the bone. Inventor W. R. Blair, of Washington, D. C., claims it would not only keep out outside noise, but would reproduce speech more clearly than throat-type mikes and be more comfortable.



Pole Holder Hooks Fish. This fishing-pole holder would not only hold your pole while you row, but would hook the fish as well. When a fish strikes, the pull trips a catch, and a coil spring inside snaps the pole upward, setting the hook. The pole fits into the tube attached to the spring. The inventors are J. and A. Sus, of Racine, Wis.



Shovel Dige Mine Shafts. How to get a large power shovel down a small mine shaft is the object of this invention of A. O. Hall, of Wenatchee, Wash. Instead of resting on the pit's cramped bottom, an adjustable-

length boom swings down from above, sliding from side to side on an overhead track. The bucket's control lines, running through pulleys sliding in tracks along each wall, move back and forth to follow the boom.



Toothbrush Is Disposable. This cheap, throw-away toothbrush would save your having to buy a regular one every time you went on an unexpected overnight trip. Designed to be used only once or twice, it has a scored cardboard handle that folds in half with space in between for toothpaste. E. M. Curran, of Los Angeles, invented it.



Child's Glass Won't Spill. A small hole in the cap on this glass lets the liquid out, while a second, diagonal hole acts as an air vent. If the glass is knocked over, its elliptical shape rolls it so that both holes are blocked by the liquid. Thus no air can get in, and no liquid can get out. The inventor is B. H. Polcyn, of Milwaukee.



Scene projected on spherical screen appears distorted in PS photographer's view, above;

but the student, seated at focal point, the center of the sphere, sees it straightened out.

# Trick Mirror Sharpens Air Gunners' Aim

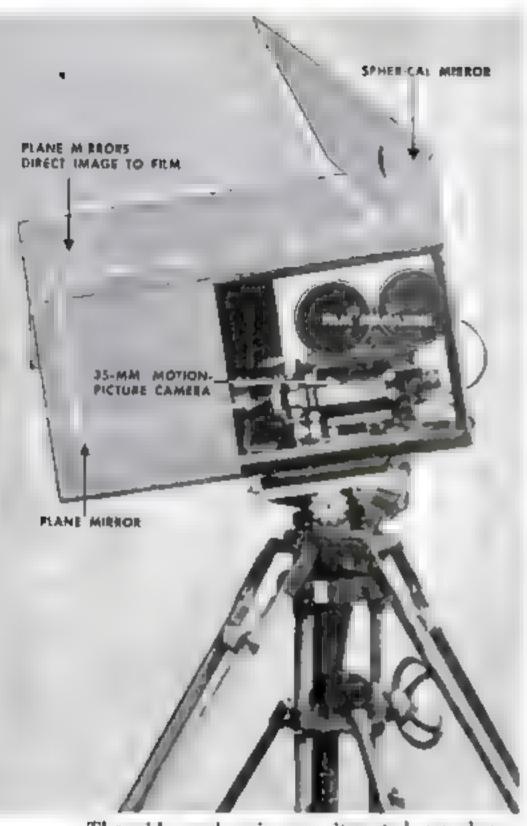
BILLY the Kid was a crack shot when he knew that his victim was coming out through the swinging doors of the Last Chance saloon.

But he might not have done so well if his target had suddenly appeared anywhere along the wide sweep of the horizon or come swooping down from the sky at an unexpected angle. That's the problem faced by an anti-aircraft gunner. To master it takes special training that keeps his eyes constantly alert and covering the vast sky.

Gunnery training devices using ordinary movies on a flat screen lack reality. The camera lens can't catch or project what the wide expanse of human, binocular vision can see. And with a flat projection the student knows the target is straight ahead.

To solve the problem, the Navy's Special Devices Center, at Port Washington, N.Y., worked with the Yerkes Observatory in developing an optical system using a very wide-angle (i.e., short focal-length) mirror that can make 35-mm, motion pictures cover 160° in azimuth and 115° in elevation

This mirror, of a quarter spherical section, is paired with two flat mirrors that transmit the image to the film. Pictures

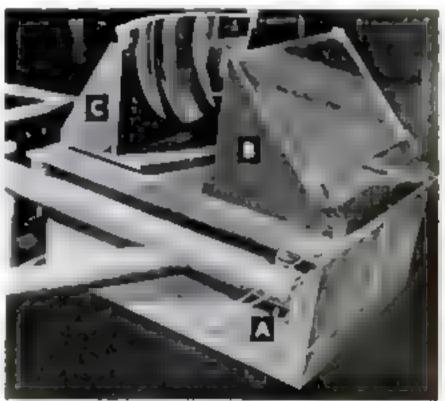


The wide-angle mireor unit in its box is shown here attached to a 35-mm, motion-picture camera. It is the same system as that shown in front of the projector on the opposite page. Strip

of film at right demonstrates how views of tall buildings taken with this camera result in accentuated distortion. These "bending" buildings are unscrambled in the projection phase.

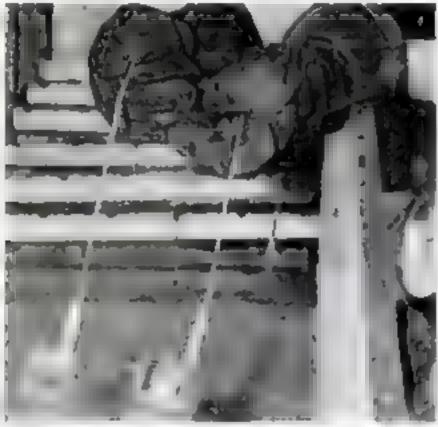
distorted on the flat film, just as pictures made with any camera having a very wide-angle lens are distorted in a similar way. But here they are unscrambled by projection through the same lens system on a screen that is a quarter section of a hollow ball. The distortion, however, is corrected only if the gunnery student sits at the focus, or center of the sphere. That is why the photo opposite, taken from behind and to one side of the projector, shows so much distortion.

The new training device has paid an unexpected dividend—a strong sense of three-dimensional effect experienced by the student. This is psychological—caused primarily by the expanse of horizon he takes in. But it's the payoff—better gunners—that counts when the going gets rough

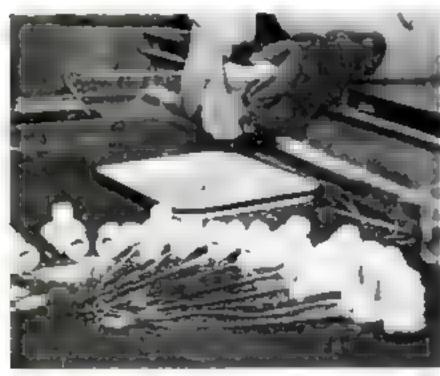


This uncovered view of the wide-angle mirror system, mounted between arms of the projection machine, shows the arrangement of the two plane mirrors. A and B, and the spherical mirror, C.

Mercury replaces wax in new version of "lostwax" easting process. Poured as a liquid into master mold, above, it then is fruzen solid in a "cold tank" by immersing mold in a refrigerant



Solid-mercury precision patterns above, removed from master molds, are handled by frozen-in wire rods and kept in cold until used. Frozen mercury looks like lead and is as hard.



Refractory molds, formed by dipping in liquid mix and drying in cold, are cut open and mercury is allowed to melt and run out. It flows down sloping table top to drain for recovery.

## Frozen Mercury Shapes Molds

SOLID mercury metal is one of industry's newest and chilhest materials. Made by cooling quicksilver past its 40-below-zero freezing point, it now replaces wax in precision casting. Applied in the Sperry Gyroscope Co. plant at Great Neck, N. Y., the method yields smoother and more accurate parts of aluminum and stainless steel

Precision casting turns out quantities of metal parts of complicated shape, or of hard-to-machine alloys, with the advantage of a minimum of machining. The standard, time-honored "lost-wax" process duplicates a steel or brass master pattern by making, first, a master mold and, then, individual patterns of wax. Next, these are coated with refractory material, and the wax is melted out, to make individual molds. Molten metal is poured into these molds to cast the parts, which are recovered by breaking away the molds. The patented new Mercast® process follows the same principles.

Filled with liquid mercury, the master mold goes into a fluid refrigerant chilled with dry ice to -76° F., yielding a solid pattern of frozen mercury. Taken from the mold, this is dipped in a similarly cooled liquid mix of refractory material, which dries and hardens around it to form the final mold. Then the mercury is allowed to melt and run out. It is reclaimed for reuse.

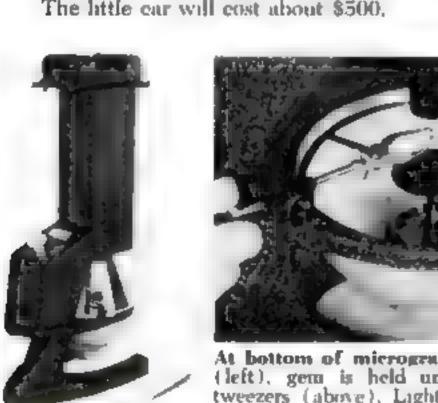


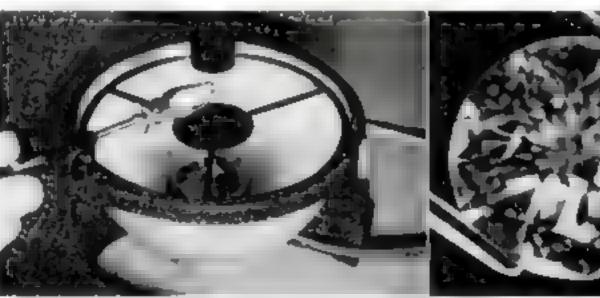
Precision eastings of complex shapes, above, were made by highly accurate new Mercast® process. In parts up to 18-in, size, it will hold dimensions within a tolerance of .003 inch



Midget Gets 60 Mi. to Gallon

You can cover 180 to 240 miles on the 3 gallons that fill the tank of this tmy Impo car. Its rubber-mounted, 72-hp. Gladden motor (right) gives it a maximum speed of 35 in.p.h. With automatic transmission and chain drive, the car weighs only 475 lb. It has a wheelbase of 63 in., a height of 38 in. and a length of 120 in. A tubular-steel frame and laminated-glass body give the car light ness and strength. The International Motor Products Co., of Glendale, Calif., makes the Imp in one model but in a selection of colors. The little car will cost about \$500.





At bottom of micrographic camera (left), gem is held under lens by tweezers (above). Light bulb below

gem illuminates it Photo of circled ttows in gem (right) will become part of record for dealer or customer.

#### Camera "Fingerprints" Gems

THE Gemprinter® identifies diamonds and other precious stones as permanently as fingerprints do a man. A micrographic camera, it photographs the tiny flaws found in gems. Then if a stone is lost, stolen, or even recut, these flaws will always identify it

(PS, Aug. '47, p. 120). At the same time, the camera also records the size, weight, flaws, stock number, color, and price, listed on paper in a slot in the side of the instrument. All this information is contained in a 5- by 8%-inch negative. The Gemprinter, made by Gem Instruments, of Los Angeles, for \$250, will be leased to jewelers.



#### Now Nylon Tows Ships

THERE'S enough nylon lying on this ship's deck to make 50,000 pairs of ladies' stockings. But all of it only makes one 1,000-ft.-long, eight-inch hawser, now being tested

for towing operations by the Coast Guard. As strong as a 12-inch Manila line, the nylon hawser is lighter, easier to handle, and stores in half the space. The Coast Guard is trying to learn if its longer life is worth the initial cost, four times as high.



#### Bazooka Doubles Its Punch

Its looks haven't changed much, but this new 3.5-mch "super-bazooka" packs twice the wallop of its 2.36-inch older brother, used in World War II. The result is to give an infantryman the punch of medium artillery in a package he can carry around with him. A bipod helps steady the rocket launcher for accurate firing from the prone position. The new bazooka was developed by the Army's Ordnance Department.



#### Ladder Gets Into Tight Spots

Garace mechanics can get at tight places on an auto with a new safety ladder, also useful in homes and shops. Its bracing legs, hinged low, slide under a car body, bringing the top step close to the side. This step has a toe board to prevent scuffing the finish, and an adjustable metal tray holds tools. The ladder, which folds flat, can't tip, slip, or slide, reports its maker, The Kant-Tip Safety Ladder Co., of New York City.

### New Rocket Hits 2,250 M.P.H.

ACTHOUGH still operating unactivities the first of the new high altitude Video reckets bit in 2.250suph, elip activities 51 unitedage austral dight. This bring was never leaded to test motor and extreme the visit worked but the Navy's records.

The Viking is being growned for the obof earrying research institution to a far aspossible a love the earth a task new perto-med by explured Gorna. V 2s. It is expected to reach heights of 2.40 miles or more

The prise at Ititiate record is 250 in least tame library 2 and 1 Wie Corporational ing together the V-2 holds to speed reak them 3 500 m p b.)

The Viking testers is the first of 10 or order. We gling I vertens I has leaded the arcket is 45 feet leng. It hums hip intoxygon include belt as does the V-2 in or in greathfact on procure 10 for sold trust I in unstable one minute. During tright patch was and roll are controlled automatically. Gland L. Martin Co. makes the recket and he return Motors, Inc., Dover, N. J. makes the engine.

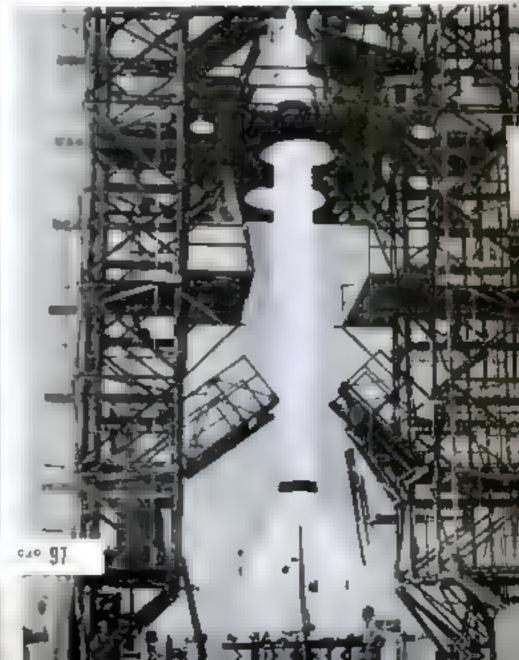
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# Gas Turbine Drives New Locomotive

Now starting freight runs, it tests skill of designers in squeezing new power plant into old pattern.

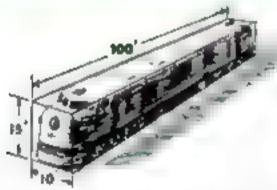
#### By Hartley E. Howe

THIS month a big brute of a locomotive is going to start hauling freight across the hot plains and up steep mountain grades of the Union Pacific. She looks like a Diesel-clectric, but she thunders like no Diesel ever

built, mixing a steady roar with a high, hoarse whistle. Fifty feet away a man has to shout in his neighbor's ear to be heard.

The brute has something to roar about. She's the first gas-turbine locomotive to go into commercial service in the United States, General Electric and the American Locomotive Company have built the new locomotive as part of their search for better railroad prime movers. All designers dream of locomotives that will burn cheaper fuel, produce

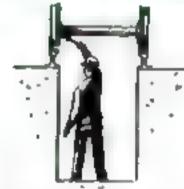
#### SOME PROBLEMS ALL LOCOMOTIVE DESIGNERS FACE



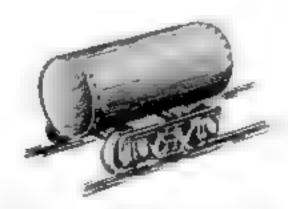
Size of locomotive is strictly limited. Curve radu, shop facilities, turntables, keep length under 100 ft. Tunnels, bridges, limit height to about 15 ft.; tracks, width to about 10 ft.



Lord on each axle must be imited to about 60,000 lb. to prevent weight from damaging tracks. For traction, load should also be concentrated on the driving wheels.



Easy maintenance and long life are highly important, lead to emphasis on simple, rugged construction at expense of complicated designs that increase theoretical efficiency.



Fuel supply carried with locomotive should last for at least 12 hours at full locomotive output to minimize delays on long runs. (Electric locomotives carry no fuel,)



Smooth riding qualities are important both for the comfort and efficiency of the crew and to reduce rail pounding. Reciprocating engines pose biggest problems.



Beauty-modern attractive appearance—is final consideration after all elements have been fitted into chassis. Locomotive should be operable from either end.

POPULAR SCIENCE

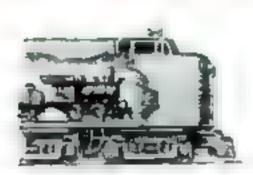


New GE-Aico gas-turbine locomotive sets out for a test run from Erie, Pa. Car unmediately

behind locomotive carries complicated testing equipment to measure performance.



#### AND SOME SPECIAL TO THE GAS TURBINE



Hostler engine to move gas turbine locomotive around the yard, like a switcher, is needed because of high idling fuel consumption. The engine also powers the turbine's starter.



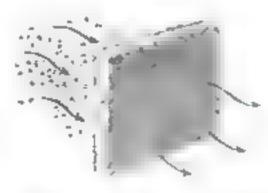
Gas turbones are most efficient when single large units are used instead of several small ones, Locomotive power units must also be rugged, simple in design, long-lived.



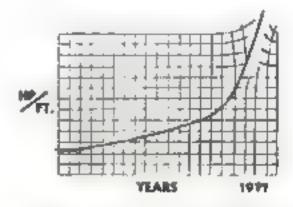
Reduction genry between gasturbine shaft and main generators are needed because of turbine's 6.700 r.p.m. But gears let designers pick best speed for generators.



Fuel must be heated to make it flow properly. This is particularly important because of small openings in tips through which the fuel must be injected into ignition chambers.



Filtered air is needed in large quantities to feed the combustion chambers. Gas turbine does not, however, need air for cooling as do Diesels. Only hibe oil must be cooled.



Ratio between horsepower and length is yardstick by which locomotive designers measure success. Horsepower per linear foot has risen steadily for all types.

more horsepower per foot of length and pound of weight, and be more reliable and easier to maintain. Whether the gas-turbine locomotive will turn out to be the mother of a whole new breed of iron horses or just an experiment depends on how she works out on the job. But in any case she's worth a good long look. You'll see why designing a locomotive is a real art.

Think you just have to pick out a good power plant and put wheels under it? Just recall the last time you tried to squeeze all your vacation purchases into an already full suitcase. That's a faint idea of how you design a locomotive. You can't fit everything in just by building it bigger. Track width and clearances control the width; tunnels and bridges put a ceiling on your cab; curves, turntables, and repair shops limit its length.

You can't just slap wheels under your power plant where you feel like it, either. Carry your weight on too few axles and you put too concentrated a load on your rails. And you must carry your load on drivers, or they'll spin trying to start a mile-long freight.

Twelve hours' fuel supply has to be fitted in somewhere. The engineer must be remembered, too. He's no cowboy: to do his job right he must have a smooth ride. And smooth riding is equally important in cutting the costs of maintaining the right of way.

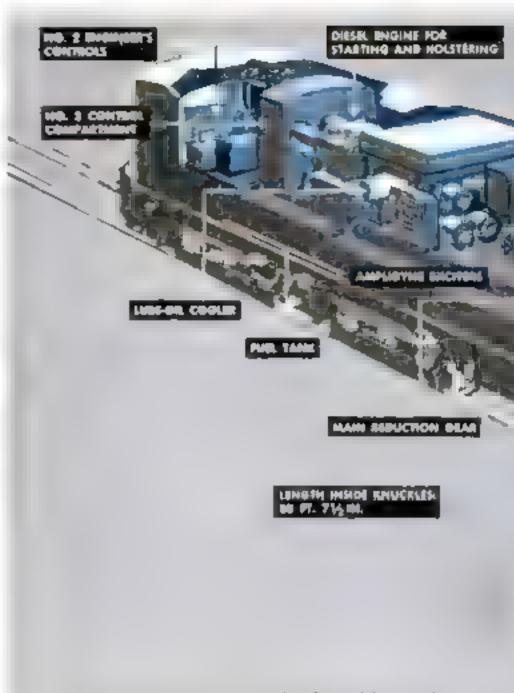
The locomotive must be double-ended, for easy reversal of direction. She must be rugged and long-lived to please your customers' cost analysts. And she must be handsome—to please your customers' sales and public-relations men.

#### Gas Turbines Pose Problems

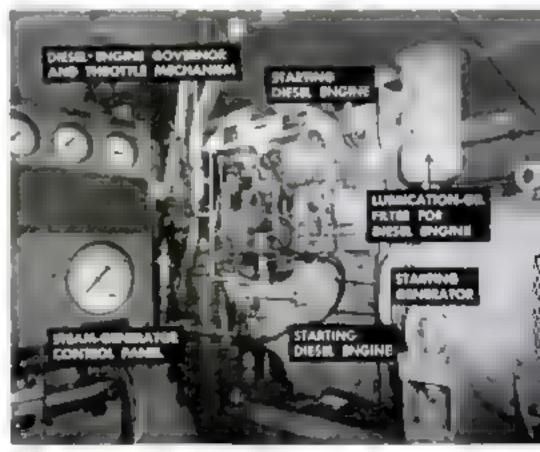
These problems all locomotive designers must face. The men who put the gas turbine on tracks had some extra-special troubles.

They had to take a fly-by-night power plant and rebuild it as a sober, steady citizen of the power world. The gas turbine has been most fully developed to power military aircraft—which are expected to last a few hundred hours. A locomotive measures its useful life in years. Gas turbines, to be efficient, should be used in big, single units. They're hard to start. They need reduction gears. More fuel than ever must be carried, since it is burned so quickly.

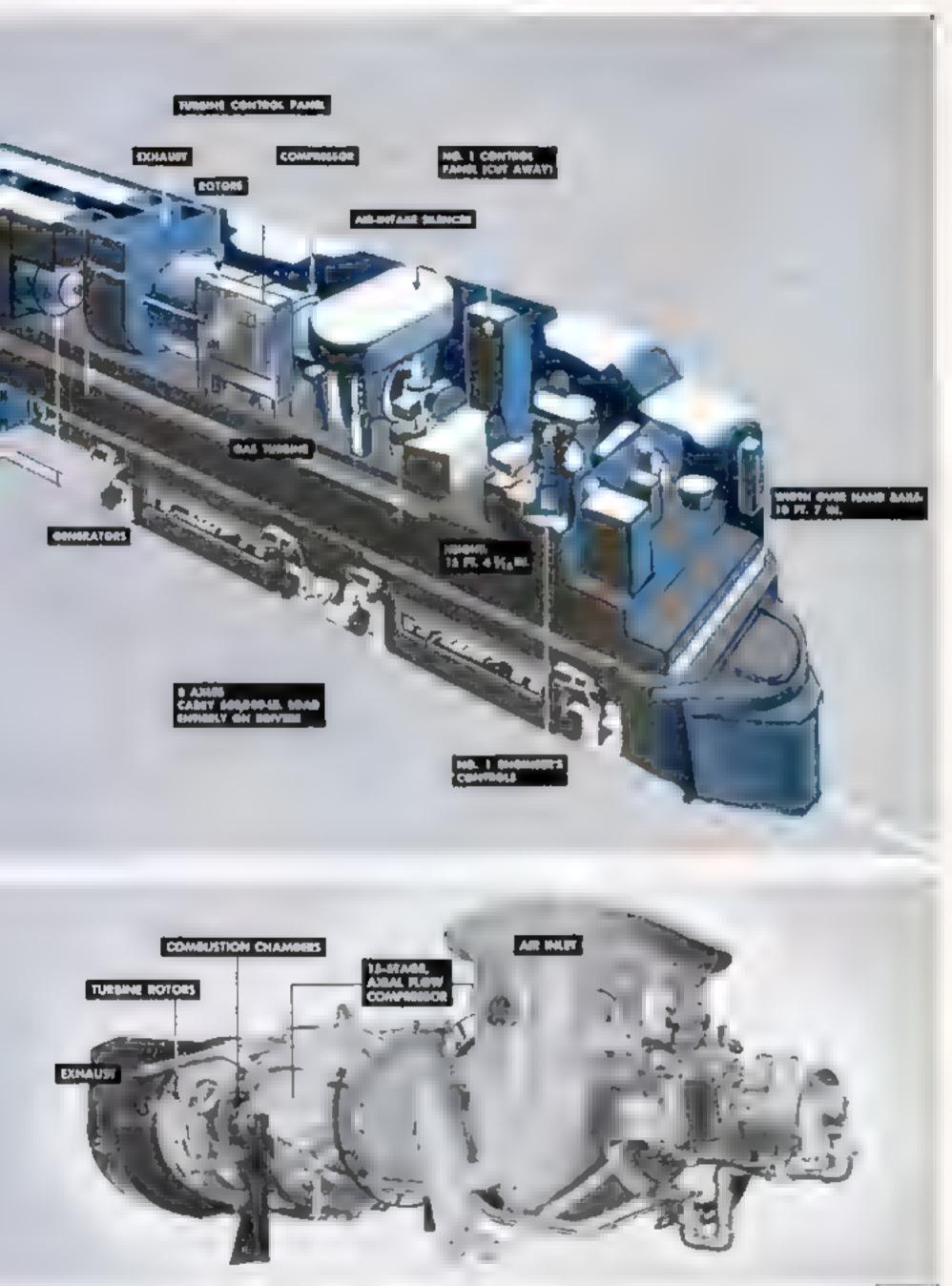
Pretty tough problems? You're right. No wonder it took GE engineers five years and some \$4,000,000 to make their first gasturbine locomotive.



How GE-Aleo engineers solved problems of designing gas-turbine locomotive is shown in diagram. Two tanks for fuel are built into an underframe, hold 6,600 gais, enough the 12 hours. Smaller tanks under one coal of reduced fuel, boiler water for steam generator thirden in drawing). Steam heats Bucker C fuel through coils in bottom of tank



Diesel is used for starting and hostlering; the steam generator heats the Bunker C fuel.



Two-stage gas turbing is 1) ft long 6 ft 8 in wale. Two thirds of power drives compresser,

balance is 4,800 hp., but 300 g ics to auxil-times, leaving 4,500 hp. for the generators.





Inside cab, twin seats on left side go to head brakeman and fireman. Switches at right control order, class, nose, and marker lights. Steampressure gauge is at far left, Next to it is warning light for low water pressure. Edge of door to cab's nose can be seen at extreme right.

Right-hand seat is for engineer. Switches at left control headlights, order light, heater defroster, headlight dimmer, and panel lights. Handle below them is throttle; smaller one, reverse control. Handle at right is automatic brake; smaller one in center, independent brake.

They started with the power plant, where they simplified and modified their aircraftturbing designs to adapt them not only to locomotives, but also to power stations and other fixed installations. The result is a 25,000-lb. gas turbine with compressor, combustion chambers, and turbine in line. Weight, space, and money are saved, and the useful life increased. The designers hope it will go 15,000 hours between overhauls-three times us long as a Diesel. But for their gains they sacrificed such elaborations as regenerators. Instead, the exhaust goes roaring right out through the roof, at 150 m.p.h. and 850° F. (Test runs have shown no damage to tunnel roofs or bridges.)

The turbine shaft is geared down to drive four generators—the same type used in Diesel-electric locomotives. These power driving motors attached to each of the eight axles. The starting problem was solved by a small Diesel engine, which drives a small generator. That, in turn, powers one of the regular generators, making it a motor. This runs the compressor until firing speed is reached. Then the turbine is started with a spray of Diesel fuel before being switched to the regular fuel, Bunker C.

This same Diesel serves as the hostlering engine. The turbine's fuel consumption when idling is high, about one third that under full load, so it is not economical to use it for yard movements.



View down engine compartment shows narrow alley at side. In front of man is gas turbme's control panel. Behind him are air filters. The turbine uses 80,000 cu. ft. of air a minute.

To make the sticky Bunker C flow up to the combustion chamber it must be heated A steam generator has been built in and steam coils run down through the fuel tanks, which form the base of the whole locomotive. The oil is raised to 100° F, in the tank, then pumped up and heated to 200° just before entering the ignition chamber.

The side walls of the locomotive hold the dry fitter to clean the 80,000 cu. ft, of air that the engine consumes every minute. When the locomotive runs through a snow storm, the flakes are sucked right through the wall and fly straight across the narrow inside passages. The cooler the air sucked in, however, the better the engine runs.

Scoring their new locomotive on a competitive basis against older types, GE engineers can point with pride to a power-length ratio of 53 hp, per foot of length. This compares favorably with about 30 hp, for Diesel-electrics and 50 hp, for steam, and is not too far from the 60 hp, per foot achieved by the highly efficient electric locomotives. The turbine burns a cheaper fuel too than Diesel oil, which partly makes up for the fact that its thermal efficiency—

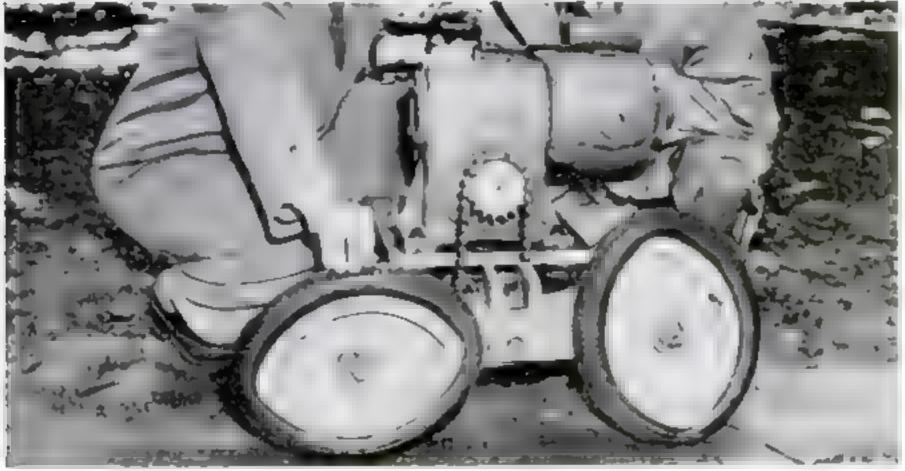
power output per B.T.U. consumed—is only 17 percent, about half that of the Diesels.

This matter of fuel consumption is one of the tough problems to be ironed out before the gas turbine can enter into full competition with her older rivals. Study is continuing on the use of powdered coal instead of oil. If this proves successful, future gas turbines may burn coal and the present oilburning type may prove only an intermediate stage (PS, Nov. '48, p. 98).

The 55,000-lb, difference in weight between running with full tanks and almostempty ones is another point the engineers will watch closely. The weight is taken from the drivers, so there is a traction loss equal to losing one driver.

On her test runs at Erie, Pa., the gasturbine locomotive would roar along parallel to the main line of the New York Central. There she would meet a giant steam locomotive rocketing along at 70 m.p.h., under a great pillar of smoke and spume of snowy steam. The two—the oldest and the newest breed of locomotive—would ignore each other like jealous rivals. Someday, perhaps, the gas turbine's roar may rule the rails. END

#### Egg-Shaped "Walking Wheels" Conquer Mud



When the going gets tough in mud, snow, or sand, the oval wheels shown above "walk" right through. Two of the new wheels replace ordinary rear-drive round wheels on each side of the vehicle. They are geared so that one of each set is on end while the other is flat. The wheels are connected by a rocker arm, at the center of which the rear

axle is pivoted. Thus, as the wheels turn, the connecting arm moves up and down like a seesaw. The pivoting axle point, however, always remains at the same distance from the ground, giving a smooth ride.

Main advantage of the "walk wheels" is greater traction. The inventor is John F. Kopczynski, of North Tonawanda, N. Y.



Photo of field uniformly planted with beans demonstrates effectiveness of fumigating soil.

# Fire and Brimstone Cure Diseased Soil

Dirt farmers praise George Woods' heat treatment of pest-ridden soil in face of experts' skepticism.

#### By Ladd Haystead

You, the American consumer, are paying millions of dollars a year to support enemies you never see. They are the bugs, the fungi, and the weeds that infest everincreasing areas of our agricultural lands. What they subtract from crop yields, you pay in higher prices at the store. What the total cost is no one knows accurately, but the guesses run as high as several billions annually. Now comes a man with a machine that he says can change all that—make the farmer more prosperous and the consumer happier, for nobody profits from lost production

He proposes to cure pest-ridden soil with a fire-and-fume-spitting mechanical monster.

The story goes back a quarter of a century to Southern California. George Woods was a poverty-stricken farmer who faced complete failure. His troubles didn't stem from his lack of skill or industry. They were, instead, entirely the doing of microscopic ene-

mies in the soil. The enemy that was about to deal the final and catastrophic blow was black scab, a potato disease that had made Woods' whole crop worthless. The previous year rust had ruined his wheat, and wilt had taken his tomatoes two years before. Woods was licked. And many of his neighbors faced the same prospect.

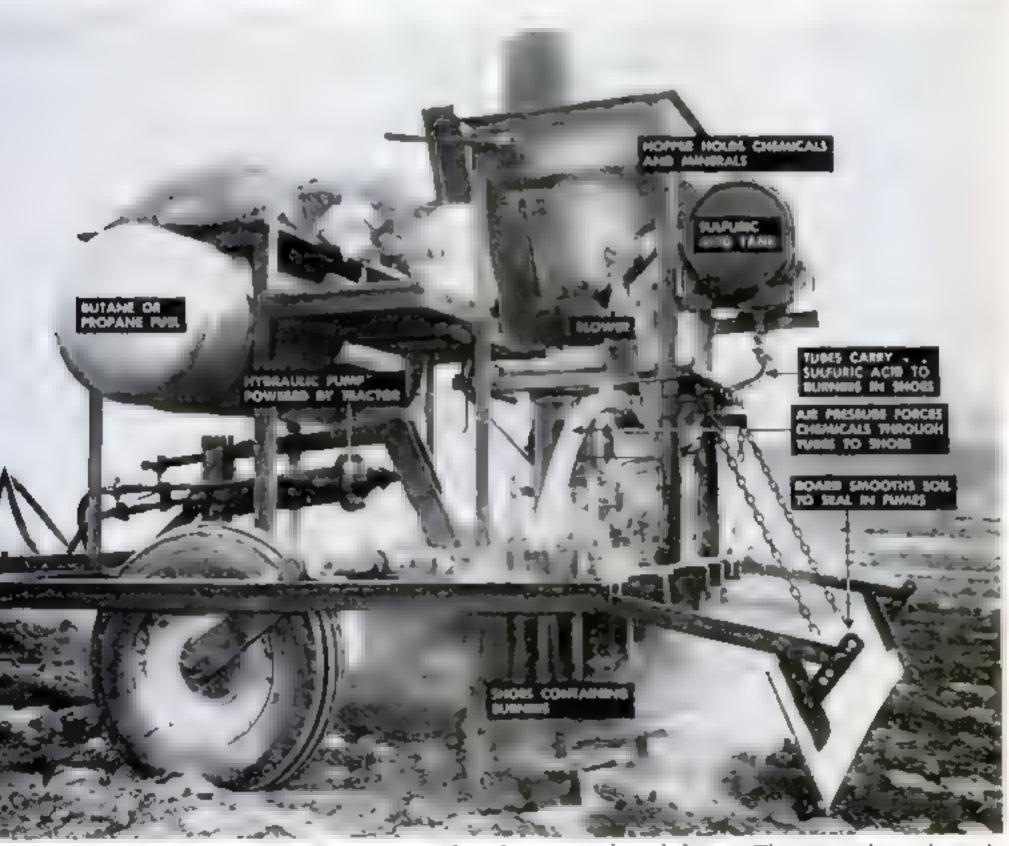
But his wife had an idea. Furnigation got rid of household pests. Why wouldn't it work on soil? He answered as many another hopeless farmer has done. Armies of skilled technicians in the experiment stations, at the Department of Agriculture, and in private business had not been able to cope with the pests. What could a lone farmer with no intensive laboratory training do?

That didn't satisfy Mrs. Woods. He could try, at least, couldn't he? And as many another American farmer has done before and since, Woods started to tinker up a machine that neither the experts nor the industrialists had thought of.

He took the hopper off an old feed grinder. He forged an iron, plowlike shoe and built a gas burner into it. An old hay rake gave him a frame and wheels. From other junk he rescued a gas tank, an engine,



The center strip, almost hare, was left untreated; fertile areas on each side were renovated.



This is the weird-looking neachine that plows flane and disease. The purious above shows the first model to have for dignite shows



and a blower. From the hopper he rigged a rain spout and hose to the metal shoe, and connected the gas tank to the shoe with copper tubing. Then he rounded up all the poisonous materials he could find and tossed them into the hopper with a couple of bags of sulfur. He lighted the gas burner, turned on the blower—and almost asphyxiated himself.

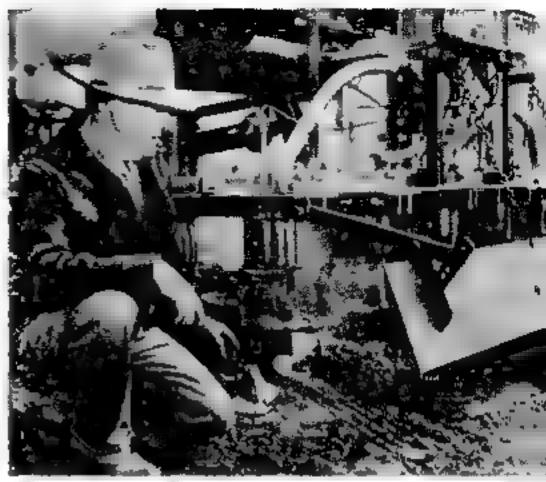
Out on the infested fields, he dragged his Rube Goldberg contraption behind a small tractor. Up and down and crosswise he went, with the metal shoe digging down into the earth, spouting its lethal, flaming dose at the diseased soil particles. He didn't know what was happening, if anything, or what the chemistry of the treatment was. There was even a chance that he was turning poor soil into stuff that would never grow anything again. But he was licked anyway.

Two days later, he planted potatoes—scabby potatoes, because there was no money for disease-free, fresh seed. Then the miracle he had to have to start again happened. In less than three months he harvested from the one-time unhealthy soil and diseased seed a clean, wholesome, and profitable crop!

#### Tedious Development Followed

Since then, he has turned out model after model of his soil fumigator. Slowly, this defect and that have been eliminated. At the same time, trial and error have shown what his machine can and cannot do, what conditions are necessary for optimum results. The scope of the machine's usefulness has been enlarged enormously. For instance, it will also neutralize alkaline ground, lowering the alkali content enough to make cropping again possible. This is vastly useful in irrigated areas, where large acreages are lost every year to the ever-threatening alkali. The machine destroys many weed seeds, but not all. Morning glory, a major pest, is so deep-rooted and vigorous that it will make a comeback even after the flame and killing gas have attacked it. But today literally hundreds of growers all over the West Coast and in the Southwest are pleading for final, perfected machines. Commercial production has fust begun at Rundle's Manufacturing Co , of San Jose, Calif.

Getting this far has not been easy. There were failures, disappointments, and lawsuits. Even now, as this writer checked with experts, the word was that the machine was incredible—a crackpot's dream—wouldn't work,

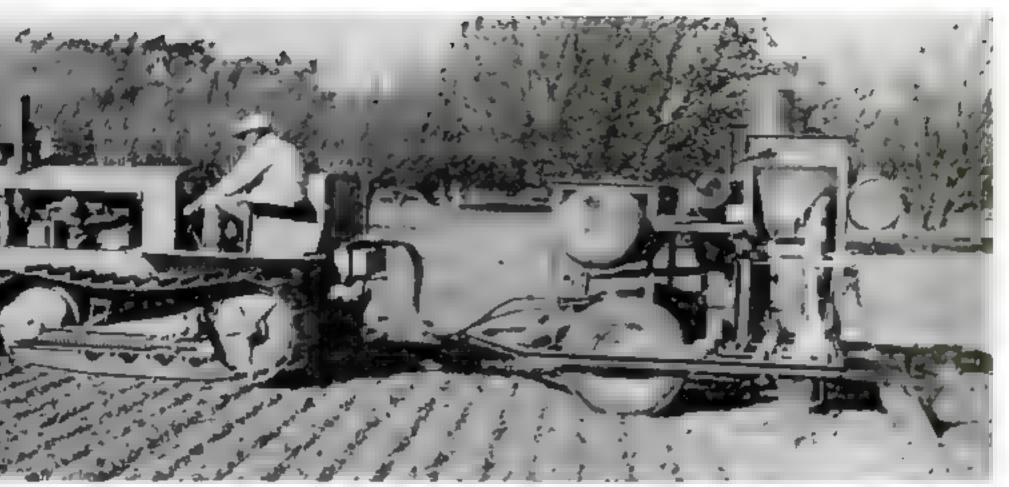


Inventor George Woods explains operation of the fire-and-gas-spouting shoes of his machine.

would probably kill all the wanted microorganisms (like clostridia and azotobacter, which "fix" nitrogen from the air into a form usable by plants). Yet, when you see several hundred realistic farmers come from hundreds of miles away to watch a demonstration and then get out their checkbooks, a reporter can be forgiven for not waiting on approval from all professional researchers.

Not all experts are so skeptical of soil fumigation, however. The Woods company has several professional agricultural scientists on its staff. And the Dow Chemical Co.—not connected with Woods—makes a fumigant for the control of wireworms and nematodes, Garden Dowfume®, that can sprinkled on your home garden from a quart fruit jar.

With only a few machines available up to now, Woods has been doing custom work, but doing it in his own way. The inventor won't take an order for fumigating a whole field. He will only do a small test plot, leaving an untreated strip down the middle. After the farmer has planted the treated area, reaped his crop, and still wants larger acreages handled, then Woods will take the job. Even this unconventional selling doesn't deter the would-be customers. But Woods insists and won't be budged even though the owners are ready to plank the money down on just the say-so of neighbors. When you are facing the loss of a high-cost crop and someone tells you he personally was saved by a curious contraption, you don't quibble over scientific disinterest.



In use, the soil renovator is pulled by a tractor. The machine has been doing custom work

until now, fumigating large acreages only after tests of small plats 2 vi successful results.

One such desperate man was Alexander Lake, lily grower of Smith River, Calif. He had a large investment in his business. Customers were clamoring for his blooms. But rust, nematodes, and fusarum rot were sending him straight toward bankruptcy. He traveled widely, interviewed plant pathologists, parasitologists, and experts of every kind who might conceivably have any answers. He tried everything suggested, but still the parasites got ahead of him. He heard about the Woods machine and even though he thought it probably was on a par with rainmaking or voodoo rituals he cajoled the reluctant inventor to furnigate for him. Lilies were something Woods didn't know much about. Result? That year Lake won the national lily championship. Today, as well as growing lilies he is an executive of the company manufacturing and exploiting the machine. Also, he keeps on hand, ready to show any unbeliever, sworn affidavits from satisfied customers all over the Southwest.

For the present, the machines are at work on the paid demonstrations. The cost runs about \$20 an acre, which includes the use of the machine and the operator's wage. Materials used average around \$7 more. The machine costs about \$3,500, but the price is expected to come down when quantity production is attained. Then an owner will be able to operate for around \$10 per acre. The treatment's good effects last for several years on most soils, but the Woods-Lake combination thinks a light and inexpensive treat-

ment every crop year is a better deal and real economy in the long run.

Some of the combinations of materials are secret, but others are not. For instance, for nematodes, minor fungs and insamum rot they use this wend mixture polyerized sulfur, powdered blue-stone, sulfuric acid, and, if the soil is alkaline, gypsum too. This frightening combination is also effective against wireworms, cutworms, root aphids, etc. In this case the farmer is told what to get, and he can shop for it any place he thinks will be most reasonable. For the secret formulas, however, he has to buy the already-prepared materials from the fumigators.

To prevent wrong usage, soil samples must be lifted first and sent to the fumigators. Their bacteriologist analyzes the samples for bacteria, fungi posts of all kinds, nutrients, and accept. He then works out a tailored formula for that particular soil. These materials are poured into the hopper, converted to a hot gas, and blasted into the soil for eighteen inches in all directions. Three days later planting can begin

Here are the claims that those afore-mentioned affidavits seem to bear out. Not only will the soil be sterilized of unwanted parasites, but also iron, ammonia, phosphorus, chlorine, calcium, intrates, and potassium will be added in sufficient quantities to assure plant growth. The three major fertilizer materials—nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash—are air-blasted into the soil in a

separate operation. And, while there is no proof other than the whopping yields the treated ground provides, there seems to be no destruction of the wanted soil bacteria.

Some of the testimonials run as follows: Ed Timken, the roller-bearing man, was in high trouble with Arizona thistles in his flax fields. Thistle seed cannot be screened out. Selling flaxseed and hay infested with the weed is unlawful. After everything else failed, Woods treated the field. The next crop was highly profitable and free from thistles.

George Tunada, of Dutch Flats, near San Diego, Calif., was in a bad way with wireworms, nematodes, beetles, corn borer, and other root and foliage pests. He says: "After treatment by the Woods machine I grew excellent crops of sugar corn and carrots on land that had been too infested to grow anything. Another plot was so infested that I had to discontinue growing tomatoes. After treatment by Woods' machine, I grew a profitable crop with no evidence of pests. Still another plot of cabbage was a total loss because of pests on roots and heads. Woods treated this field for me, too, and I grew a fine crop of red cubbage, every head was large and solid."

There it is—the experts say it can't be so. The farmers who are begging for machines and custom work aren't paying any attention to the experts.

The 72-year-old inventor has no desire to make a fortune. He does have a fierce, almost zealot's urge to help his brother farmers. One company made him a handsome offer for his patents. When it wouldn't write into the sales contract an agreement to manufacture a minimum number of machines a year, he got suspicious that it meant to "bury" his invention. Despite an even better offer, he turned the company down and stalked off. Now he feels his machine will one day not only be at work on fields all over America, but elsewhere in the world, as soon as experimentation can be made in each climate and soil type. He will not permit it to be used in a new area until it has been tested on sample plots. And he is quite candid as to its limitations

"Well, right's right and wrongs nobody," he says. "The machine won't cure virus diseases. It will kill morning glory only when the ground is very dry. It won't work well unless clods are broken up. But, I'll tell you something—I ain't had a cold since I sniffed those fumes 25 years ago."



#### **Jeep Gets New Civilian Comforts**

Gis won't recognize a ride in a jeep anymore—most of the bounce is gone. In the latest models, the bone-jarring, old-style seats have been replaced with seats of the station-wagon type (left, above) having newly developed zig-zag springs and thick cushions.

Willys-Overland engineers have incorporated some other changes, too. They have provided an air vent under the windshield, and have mounted the windshield itself in rectangular metal tubing (right). Channels in this tubing hold the side curtains. The curtain is simply slid into the channel, eliminating buttons or any other fastening.

Mechanical improvements include greater ground clearance below the steering linkage, to improve driving ease off the road, and a foot-operated, starting-motor control that aids cold-weather starting.



You'll soon see top television shows on the huge screens of movie theaters —new types of equipment will do it.

By George H. Waltz, Jr.
Drawings by Lester Fagans and Falter Popp

TELEVISION is coming to your neighborhood theater, Soon, say experts, movie houses will be dishing up special television entertainment instead of second-rate second features. You then will be able to relax in a comfortable seat and enjoy championship boxing bouts, World Series baseball, bowl football games, and important news events as well as if you were right on the spot. And many of these special TV theater shows will not be flashing on the screens of home receivers.

Most important of the factors bringing television to the movie houses is new equipment able to project bright, movielike television images on a full-size theater screen. But basic dollars-and-cents business is involved, too. Theater owners have their eyes on audience-pulling television features, while sports promoters see the possibility of \$10,000,000 box-office gates in television rights leased to theaters. A championship prize fight, they point out, could be staged in a small studio instead of a big arena and be viewed by millions of fight fans—at 85 cents or \$1.10 each—all over the country.

The same reasoning applies to the big commercially sponsored TV shows—the sponsors want bigger audiences; the movie men want those audience-pulling shows in their theaters.

When television pictures do reach your local theater—successful demonstrations already have been made in several major cities—they will get there via one of five different types of video projectors now being groomed for the job. The basic systems are shown on the following pages

#### REFRACTIVE & REFLECTIVE PROJECTION

THE refractive and reflective methods of TV theater projection resemble the basic methods used in the familiar projection-type home receivers—they project the images formed on a cathode-ray tube directly onto a remote screen.

In the refractive system, a projection lens, placed directly in front of a high-voltage picture tube capable of producing brilliant images, throws the images on the screen. It is very similar to motion-picture or lanternshide projection, with the cathode-ray tube simply replacing the film in the projector.

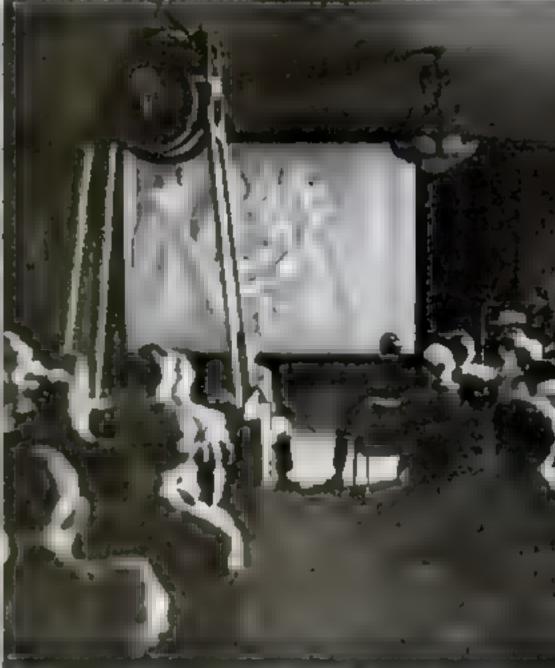
The reflective system, on the other hand, makes use of a spherical mirror and a ring-like corrective lens to magnify and project the tube's image. Originally developed as an astronomical telescope—and now widely used in that science—it is usually called the Schmidt system after its astronomer-inventor. Basically, the design of a reflective projector resembles that of an old-fashioned

"magic lantern," with the brilliantly glowing picture tube taking the place of the illuminated post card, and with a spherical magnifying mirror replacing the flat reflecting surface. The ringlike lens corrects for the spherical distortion introduced by the mirror. The picture tube faces away from the screen in the Schmidt system, its image being picked up by the spherical mirror and projected forward to the screen through the correcting lens that circles the tube's neck

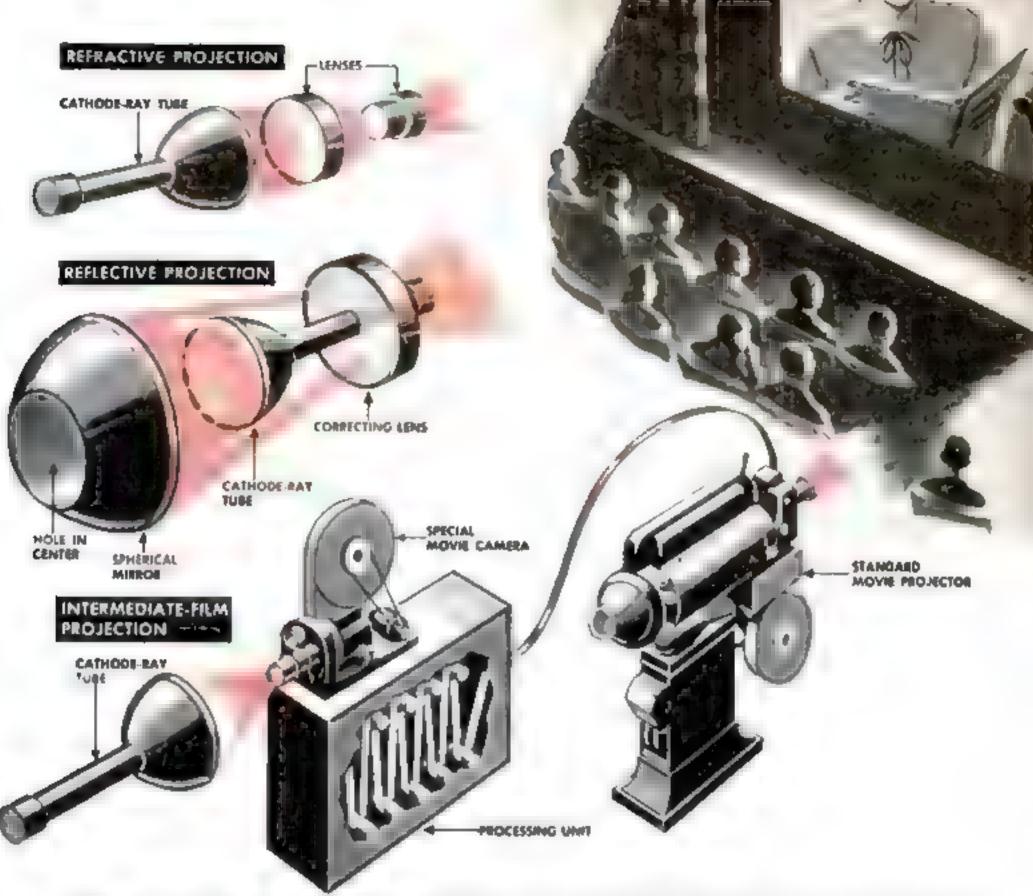
In both the refractive (lenses) and reflective (mirror and lens) systems of projection the brightness of the final picture on the screen depends entirely on the brilliance of the image formed on the cathode-ray tube. For this reason, extremely high voltages must be used to produce a cathode-ray beam powerful enough to get the maximum light output from the tube's fluorescent screen, Voltages as high as 80,000 often are necessary. However, the tubes can be small in size, frequently having pictures hardly larger than a postage stamp.



Most direct way to project television on a big screen is with a lens in front of the cathode-ray tube. A typical refractive projector is the U.S. Television model that is shown above.



Reflective, or Schmidt, system of projecting television uses mirror and lens to get big image Latest RCA model (above) can fill a 15- by 20-ft, screen, may be available late this year.



Sketches above show basic elements of projection systems that have seen actual use in the U.S.

#### INTERMEDIATE-FILM PROJECTION

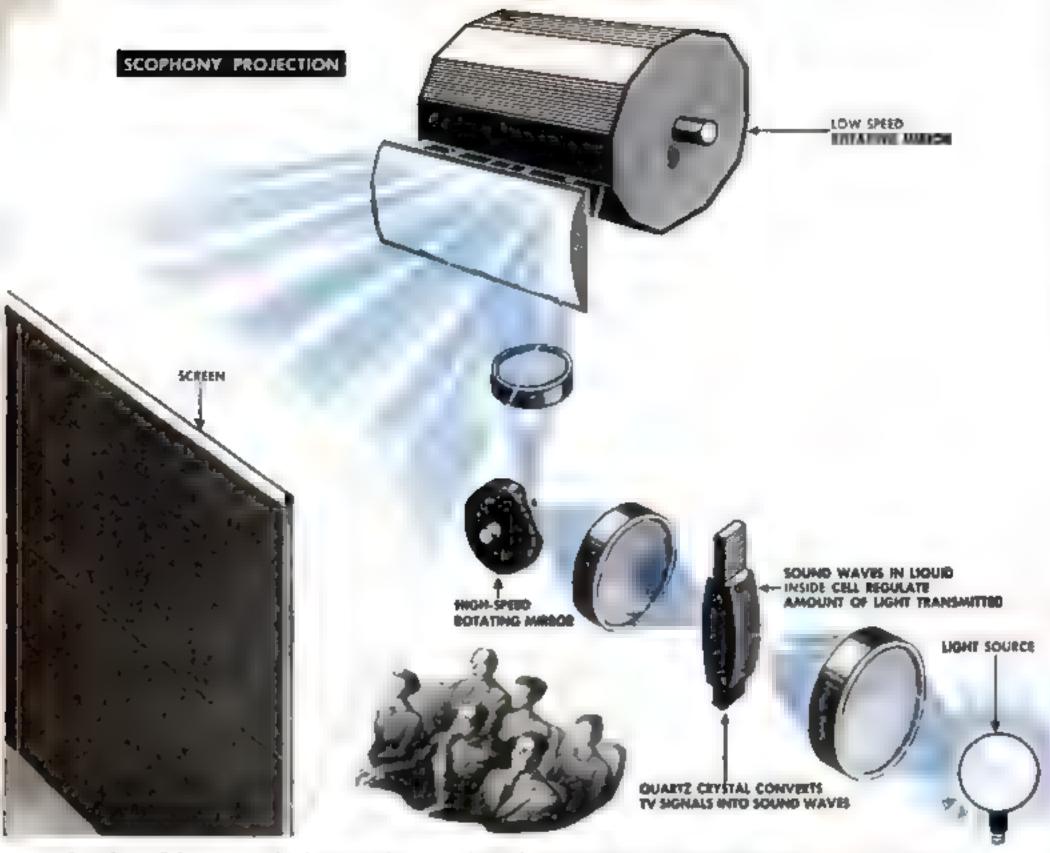
Since cathode-ray tubes can provide only a limited amount of light for projection, some engineers favor a theater-television system in which the final brilliance obtained on the screen comes not from a picture tube, but from some outside source—an incandescent lamp or a carbon are,

One such system is the intermediate-film method of projection, which has been successfully demonstrated at New York's Paramount Theater. This is a continuous, three-step process making use of a direct-view television receiver, a special sound-on-film motion-picture camera, a high-speed film processing unit, and a regulation movie-theater projector. The TV images, displayed in this case on the tube's screen as negative images, are photographed continuously on

positive film by the camera, which has been altered to compensate for the difference between the 24 exposures per second used in making movies and the 30 images per second used in television.

As the film is exposed, it enters an automatic, high-speed, high-temperature film processor, where it is developed, fixed, and dried. From the processor it is fed directly to the motion-picture projector. Elapsed time from TV image on the receiver to projected image in the theater—56 seconds!

A number of companies, including the Radio Corporation of America, Eastman Kodak, and others, are experimenting with the intermediate-film process. Among the improvements being tested are magnetic sound recording and a more precise shutter and film-moving system that will give smoother motion.



Scophony® has no cathode-ray tube, uses liquid light valve, rotating mirrors to create image.

#### SCOPHONY PROJECTION

Most revolutionary of the TV projection systems is Scophony<sup>®</sup>. It has no cathode-ray tube at all, but uses a light valve, rotating mirrors, and an arc or incandescent lamp to turn the television signals into screen images.

Two things are needed to make a television image in any system: spots of light of the proper brightness, and a way to scan, or place those spots in the correct positions to form the picture. In ordinary electronic television, the spots are created by varying the strength of a cathode-ray beam in accordance with the incoming signal, and the spots are placed by moving the beam. In Scophony, the spots are made by varying the strength of a light beam with the valve a sort of continuously changing filter—and placed by reflecting them from the mirrors.

The light valve is a liquid-filled cell containing a quartz crystal. The crystal is connected to the incoming television signals, converting them into high-frequency sound waves. The varying sound waves change the liquid's index of refraction—the amount it will bend a beam of light passing through it. Thus the signals control the amount a light beam will be bent passing through the cell, and therefore the amount of light that will pass directly through it. This makes the spots of light of the proper brightness.

To place these spots in their right positions, Scophony has two motor-driven, many-sided, mirrored drums—one to scan from side to side, the other up and down. A small, high-speed scanning drum picks up the light spots from the valve and reflects them, one by one, to form a single horizontal line on one of the mirrored faces of a low-speed scanning drum. The low-speed drum, with the aid of a lens, projects each line, one below the other, onto the screen to form the completed image.



Skintron system, used in wartime radar, employs special cathode-ray tube to make pictures.

#### SKIATRON PROJECTION

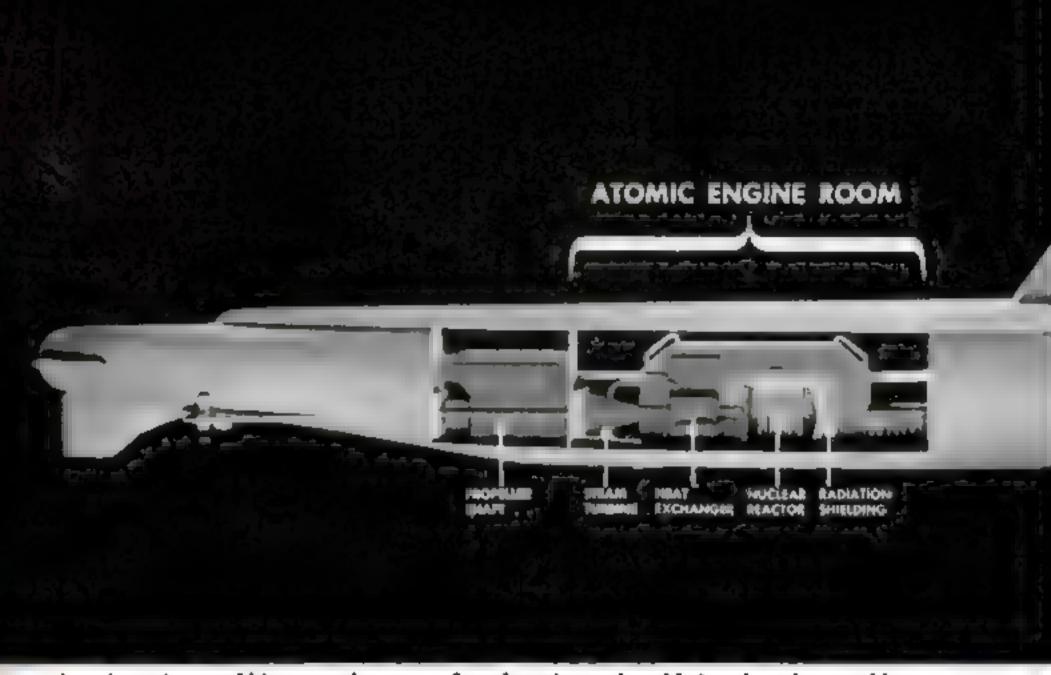
STILL, in the laboratory stage of development, the skiatron system of TV projection promises one of the simplest methods of putting bright images on a big screen. It uses an independent light source, but with an allelectronic image-forming device, thus eliminating the difficulties usually involved in mechanical scanning.

The heart of the system is a new kind of cathode-ray tube—the skiatron tube—that has a screen of electro-sensitive crystals (such as potassium chloride) rather than the fluorescent screen found on ordinary cathode-ray tubes. These electro-sensitive crystals act just the opposite way fluorescent screens do. Instead of glowing when struck by a beam of electrons, they darken—and darken in direct relation to the strength of the electron beam hitting them.

Placed in a television-receiver circuit.

the skiatron tube produces "shadowgraphs," or lantern-slide-like transparencies, rather than brilliantly glowing pictures. By arranging the tube's components at a 45° angle, rather than in a straight line as in the normal cathode-ray tube, the concentrated beam from a powerful light source can be used to project the tube's filmlike images onto a large screen. The skiatron projection system, in effect, makes it possible to employ the normal movie-projection technique used in the intermediate-film method—without the intermediate film! By using three-tube arrangements with filters, skiatron could also project color television.

The skiatron tube, still under development for television, saw war use in projecting radar images aboard battleships. One difficulty, which was unimportant in radar but must be corrected for television, is the relatively long persistence of the shadow image it produces.



Atomic engine would increase the range of a submarine and enable it to be submerged longer.

## Will Atomic Engines Be Mobiles

Navy will get experimental model. Delayed neutrons will make it safe and easy to run.

#### By Volta Torrey

PS photos by Hubert Luckett

TX7ESTINCHOUSE engineers are prepar-VV mg now to assemble the U.S Navy's first atomic engine. It will be the first nuclear reactor designed to turn a propeller.

This one, its sponsors say, will never go to sea or take an amplane off a runway. It is to be permanently based on the Atomic Energy Commission's new Reactor Farm in Idaho, 600 miles from the ocean. But some day this reactor may be as highly valued an historic treasure as the Wright brothers' first airplane-because it is expected to be the prototype of many propulsion units that will be run with fissionable atoms just like those now put into bombs.

Engines of this type may add tens of thousands of miles to the cruising ranges of ships. Running such engines, moreover, will be quite simple, and blowing one up will be extremely difficult-yet each one will have to be imprisoned like a criminal.

Heavy walls will surround this engine because those strange little things that the physicists call neutrons are to be used in it. to split atoms, to produce heat, to turn a shaft. Having too many neutrons at large is so unhealthy that they must be firmly con-



This model shows arrangement Dr. Clark Goodman discusses in new nuclear-power textbook.

fined but their somewhat fearun tests tend to make their very of figurg prisoners

Some neutrons are dways late for work, and when given a chinaci nearly all of them quickly described chain gargs into which men put them. This is what i takes it easy to slow down are engine in which they are the firemen.

But ever while some neutrons are working diligently others are sure to cause trouble. Atoms become pregnant because of neutrons and freve children, and granech latten. The neutrons meanwhile change then identifies and disappear. This unselect is responsible for what you and I call radicactivity and for much of that as you know is not good for human beings.

These are some of the facts that reactor builders must ponder.

#### For the Yest 18 Months

The AEC plans to build only four renters during the next year and a half. Two will be breeders a tended to produce more nuclear fuel as well as power (PS. June '49, p. 124), and one will be a special type designed to just the nuclear would like to use in future models. The fourth render has

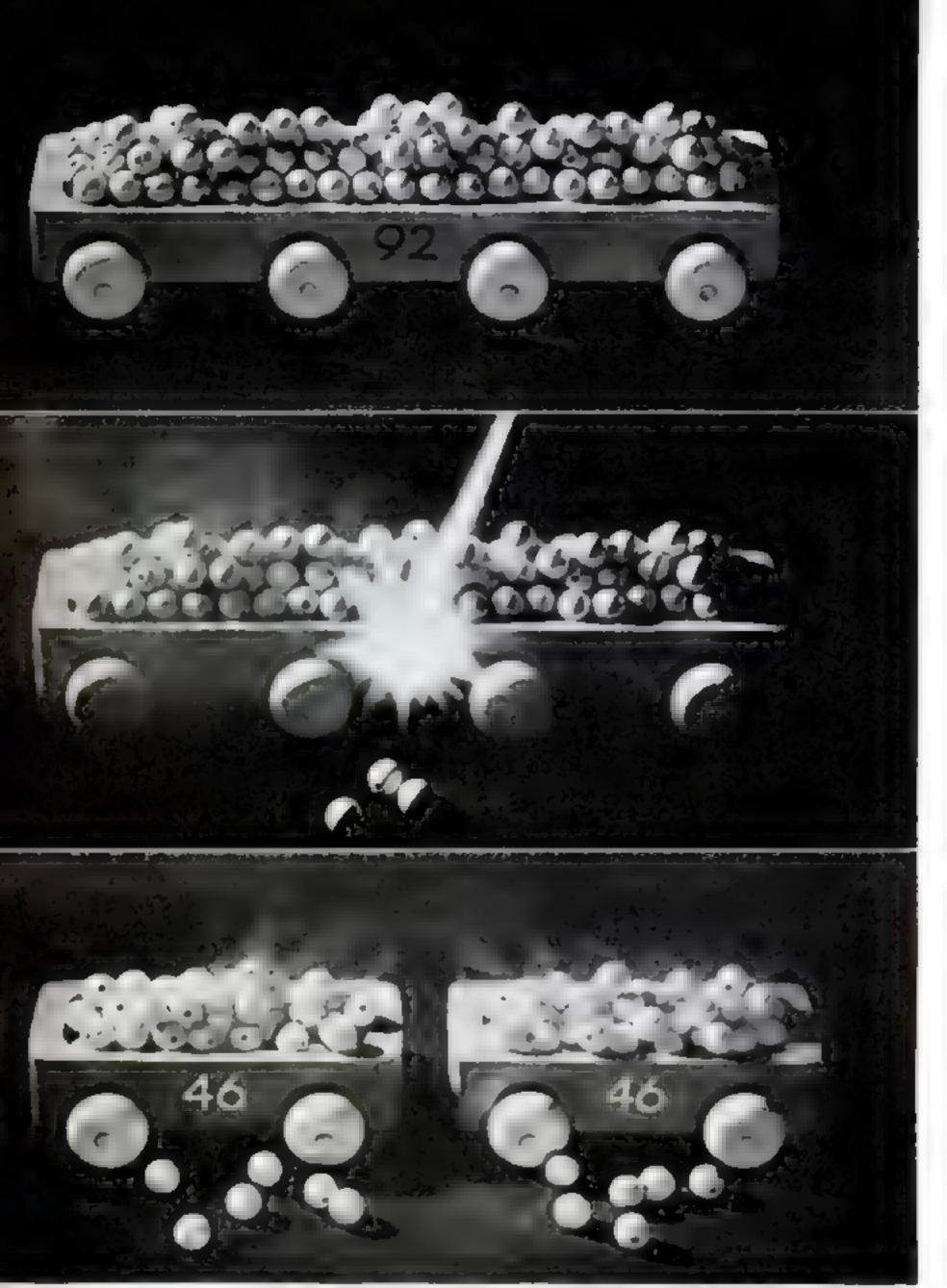
the only one designed to produce a specific another of power for a specific purpose will be the Nax's propulsion and

Plans for this nabile type will be completed in a new 600-man Westinghouse laboratory real Pittsberghouse Before it is paltogether construction of the materials tester will be under way in Idaho, and by the bine it is faished more will be knewn about what must be done in order to put similar ancher ergores into slops, planes and rockets.

#### Yeutrons Depend on Partners

The engineers believe now that a shacked atomic engine, very little because it in the engines, burners, and tons of oil now earned by some now divessels can be developed fairly soon. Later it may be possible to make one light enough for huge aircraft but meant insent work remain to be done because of the neutrons peculiarities.

No way is yet known of extracting great and useful amounts of energy from the nuclei of atoms without the help of neutrons. They are the heaviest things an items in they stick together tightly in mach. To do this, however, they need platters. Those partners are protons.



Atomic nuclei are vehicles for neutrons. A nucleus with 92 protins can retain 143 neutrons as in cart at top. Splatting the nucleus with another neutrons as in center picture, kneeks a few neutrons out, but leaves the two nuclei that are then formed overloaded with neu-

trons. A micleus with ady 46 protess cannot percentally retain more than 64 controns sessone are tissed out belitedly by many oversloaded macket. Delived arrival of those neutrons makes it easy to control the rate at which the temperature of a reactor rises.

The number of protons in an atom limits the number of neutrons that can remain forever in its nucleus. A lot of protons can bind an even larger number of neutrons together. But when the number of protons is reduced, the number of neutrons that can stay in a nucleus with them is often reduced considerably more,

An atom of Uranium 235, for example, has 92 protons and 143 neutrons. But an atom with only half that many protons (46) cannot permanently accommodate more than 64 neutrons, which is less than half (71.5) of the number of neutrons in the uranium atom.

A nucleus that is overloaded with neutrons behaves, at first, like any other kind of overloaded machine or man. Instead of collapsing instantly, it usually wobbles along for a while. Nevertheless, sooner or later, the machine must be strengthened or some of the load must be removed.

#### Wobbling Explains Radioactivity

Physicists call atoms that contain too many neutrons "unstable." This instability, or tendency to wobble, makes them radioactive. And that is simply a scientific way of saying that something is sure to happen to them.

An unstable nucleus may strengthen itself by giving birth to a meson—one of the marvelous things that scientists are now studying very intently. Within the nucleus, this meson may turn into a different kind of meson, which may give birth to an electron. And if you were to examine an atom after such changes inside of it, you would find that it had become an atom of a different element, because an additional proton would have appeared in it, and one of its neutrons would have vanished.

To show your friends how a nuclear reactor is controlled, surround a coffee cup with sponges to represent shielding and insert another sponge But, as you might well imagine, having a child and a grandchild takes time—and a wobbly, overloaded nucleus often can stabilize itself more simply by throwing off part of its neutron burden. Several kinds of radioactive atoms just heave a neutron out when they are overloaded.

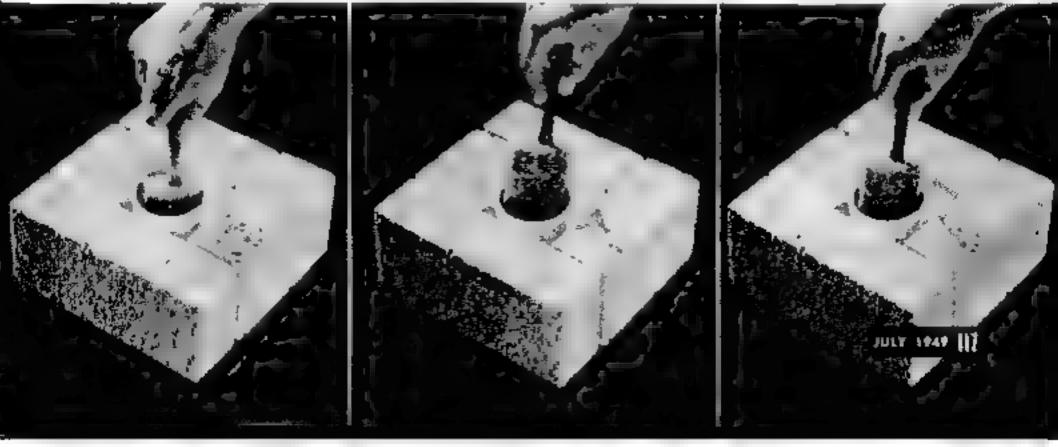
The neutrons that are tossed out intact but tardily by the new atoms created when atoms of Uranium 235 are split are politely referred to by reactor experts as "delayed" neutrons. They tend to make nuclear reactors sluggish and, consequently, are extremely helpful, because the sluggishness of reactors makes it quite easy for men to control them.

#### What Will Be Cooking

If you could look into the boiler of the engine now being designed for the Navy, and see with the help of some impossibly powerful microscope what the physicists say will happen in it, you would see hordes of free neutrons splitting enormous numbers of atoms of Uranium 235. The free neutrons would virtually never break one of those atoms into two equal halves. Instead, they would break the big atoms into smaller atoms of tin, antimony, arsenic, zinc, and about two dozen other elements-but nearly all of those new atoms would be overburdened with neutrons. If one was not, the other one that had come out of the same uranium atom would be very seriously overloaded.

Those new atoms would contain too many neutrons because only a few of each uranium atom's 143 neutrons would have been knocked out when the big atom was split. Most of its neutrons would cling with the protons in the nuclei of the newly formed lighter atoms. But the protons of

to represent control rods. Drawing the rods out permits the reactor to start. Shoving them back in retards it because they "absorb" neutrons.



these new atoms would not be able to hold so many hangers-on together forever, and in the course of time quite a few of them would be thrown out.

If you could focus your imaginary supersuper-microscope on a single atom's nucleus, you might find that it was an overloaded and shaking bit of bromme—an element familiar to chemists as a reddish-brown, evilsmelling liquid. By having meson descendants within its nucleus, this atom might turn a neutron into a proton, and become an atom of krypton, which is one of the rare gases in the atmosphere.

But, if you looked very, very closely, you might find that this krypton atom was unstable, too. If it went on having children and grandchildren, it eventually would become an atom of rubidium, a soft, silvery-

white metal.

That excited krypton atom, however, might practice birth control and stabilize itself by simply hurling out one of the neutrons responsible for its agitation. No one has ever seen a krypton atom do this, and no one ever will. But the physicists can prove that, whenever a great many atoms of Uranium 235 are split, neutrons will emerge tardily from several kinds of radioactive fragments such as that krypton atom.

They even know, in fact, how many neutrons can be counted on to be unavoidably delayed; one percent of all the neutrons freed will not appear until a hundredth of a second or more after the Uranium 235 atoms have come apart. A substantial number of them will be about eight seconds late, and some will be a whole minute behind

time,

#### The Dragon at Lox Alamos

Ingenious and daring experiments were performed to find this out. Prof. O. R. Frisch and his assistants at Los Alamos almost produced a bomb, momentarily, in a device that they called the Dragon. In it, a slug of Uranium 235 was allowed to fall through a hole in a larger chunk of the same material resting on a table.

While the slug was going through that hole, millions of neutrons popped out and broke a great many Uranium 235 atoms. But the slug passed on, through a hole in the table into a box beneath the table, before enough neutrons had gotten out of the fission fragments to split enough more atoms to cause trouble, F. de Hoffman, B, T. Field, and B, R, Stein examined this slug, found

that neutrons still were coming out of it, and counted them.

The tardiness of such neutrons made it difficult to design a bomb, but comparatively easy to design controllable reactors. None of the latter has exploded because the delayed arrival of some of the neutrons always gives the operators of such reactors—and the electrical devices that aid them—ample time in which to act whenever things start to happen too fast.

#### The Spoon in the Cup

The "neutron flux" in a controllable reactor is regulated very simply. If you have eaten frequently in railroad dining cars, you probably have learned to reduce the danger that your coffee will be spilled by leaving your spoon in the cup. The spoon retards the rate at which the waves in the liquid can grow higher and thus become big enough to pass over the cup's rim. Something better than a spoon, however, can be left in a nuclear reactor.

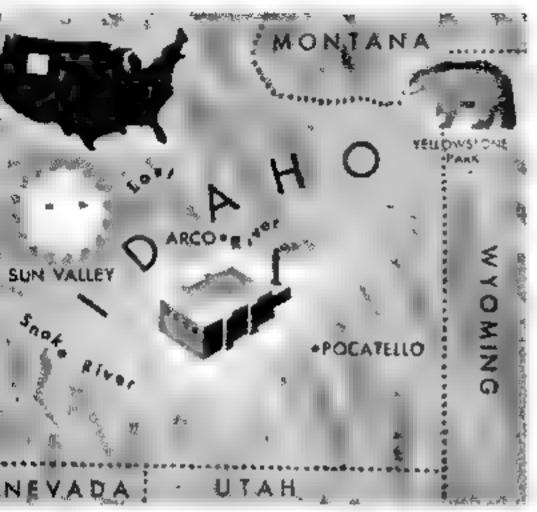
There are materials that absorb neutrons as readily and even more quickly than sponges absorb water. Rods made out of those materials are run through the reactors. They make it possible to control the rate at which the number of neutrons at work rises, and thus regulate the temperature of the reactor

To start the Navy's atomic engine, some of those rods will be drawn out. To allow more neutrons to split more atoms, another rod will be partially withdrawn. And to slow the reactor down, by reducing the number of neutrons on the job, one or more of the rods will be shoved back in far enough to absorb as many of them as necessary. Those rods may even be adjusted automatically by devices comparable to the thermostats that regulate ordinary furnaces in many homes.

"To keep a pile running at a steady rate," says Enrico Fermi, who built and ran the first one beneath a stadium in Chicago, "is an art that can be mastered in a few hours." Hence, every man in the crew of an atomic-powered ship may learn to apply the brake.

But might not an enemy's bomb or shell cause an atomic reactor to blow up?

This would be highly improbable because (1) the same shielding that would protect the crew from radioactivity could serve as armor to protect the atomic boiler, and (2) that boiler could be so designed that loss of control of its temperature would result



New reactor station in Snake River Valley of Idaho will cover 625 square miles. A materials-tester and a propulsion unit for the Navy will be first two reactors built there. Eventually, many more experimental atomic engines may be tried out in this seenic area of the Rockies.

only in a big fizzle. It could, in fact, be made less liable to blow up than other parts of a ship.

Although uranium has been mined for eight centuries, and used to color crocks, imitation jewels, and the caution lights in traffic signals, there is no record of it ever having exploded except under conditions that are hard to bring about.

#### Why Reactors Are Big

Puncturing the casing of a controllable atomic boiler would let neutrons escape and tend to reduce the rate at which it produced heat. But those neutrons, and the other radiation that would zoom out with them from the unstable atoms in the reactor, might be very harmful to people.

The shielding that protects people is what makes most controllable reactors big and cumbersome. Ways to reduce its weight may be found with the help of the specially designed materials-tester soon to be built.

A second reason for the immensity of some reactors is that they are run with uranium that contains only a small percentage of fissionable atoms. But the Navy reactor is to be run with fuel that has been "enriched" with such atoms, Hence, its boiler may be quite small,

In this respect, it will be a sister of the

two smallest reactors now running. Both are at Los Alamos. One is called the Water Boiler because its fuel is fed to it in liquid form. The other is called Clementine, because its diet is Plutonum 239, for which the wartime code name was "Forty-niner."

#### Atomic Submarine First

The Navy engme's fuel tank—which will also be its boiler—will have to be taken out periodically so that the fragments of broken atoms can be removed, and fresh, fissionable atoms inserted. But the tank will not be noticeably lighter when its contents have been used up than when they are fresh because, despite the tremendous amounts of heat that this fuel yields, only a tiny fraction of its weight will be converted into energy.

The first actual installation of such an engine, many engineers believe, is likely to be in a submarine. There it would be especially advantageous because nuclear fuel can be consumed without oxygen. In a submarine, moreover, tons of batteries and fuel might be found to be unnecessary.

Suppose that such submarines, roaming the seven seas, and remaining submerged as long as their crews were willing, also were equipped to plant atomic mines or flip atomic projectiles into areas like Pearl Harbor...

Suppose, too, that men continue to make the planes that earry bombs bigger, and nuclear reactors smaller . . .

These grim thoughts are not ridiculous. Millions of dollars, from your pockets and mine, are being spent to make developments of this sort possible—and the only alternative is to persuade the leaders of other nations that atomic energy must be controlled internationally.

#### Rhenium Metal Found Radioactive

As predicted but not previously confirmed, the rare metal rhenium has been found to be naturally radioactive, Prof. W. F. Libby, of the University of Chicago, reports. Belonging to the manganese family, this heavy, silvery metal has been used in special lamp filaments and as a chemical catalyst. It now becomes one of a few known examples of naturally radioactive elements outside the well-known uranium-radium and similar families. Others include naturally radioactive isotopes of potassium, rubidium, samarium, and lutecium, and more may be discovered, chemists foresoe.

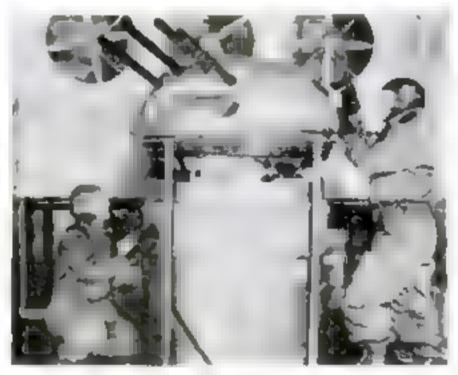


Going Up in a Rubble. Three passengers fit comfortably in the wide seat of the latest Bell-47D1 helicopter shown above. A 40-percent increase in payload to 500 lb, was achieved by reducing the rotary-

wing craft's empty weight by 150 lb. This decreased weight also permits the new model, say the designers, to hover motionless at 10,000 feet—double the previous altitude—for mapping and other surveys



Drains Tanks in a Hurry. Emptying aircraft fuel tanks is now just a 15-minute job at the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Culif. Thanks to the homemade, portable unit above, invented by M/Sgt. Eddie Reynolds, repair work need not wait for a "de-fueling" gas truck to be available. The 80-lb. machine, built of salvage parts including an electric transfer pump from an old Corsair, can be reversed to fuel planes.

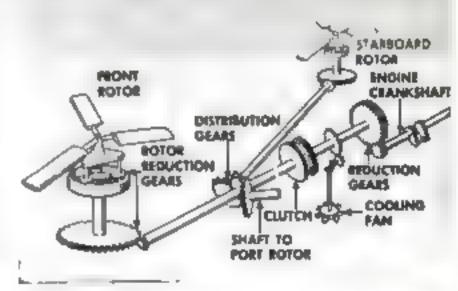


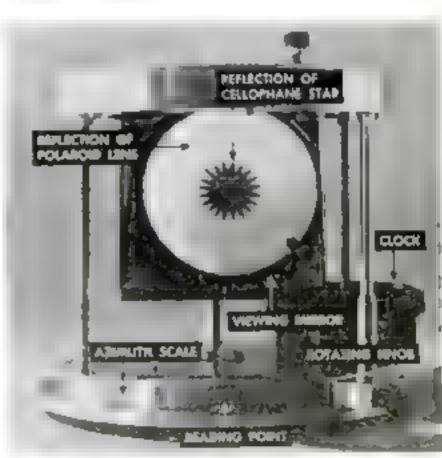
Turrets Get Freeze Test. Wearing "storm suits" to protect them against temperatures as low as 65° F, below zero, General Electric engineers test gun turrets that will go into new models of the Air Force's 400-m.p.h. B-50 bombers. In addition to being checked for the effect of low temperatures encountered at 40,000 feet, the turrets are subjected to strains simulating high wind velocities of actual flight.



Big 'Copter Lifts Big Load. The Cierva "Air Horse," Britain's first freight-carrying helicopter, is designed to lift three tons of cargo or 24 passengers, plus a two-man crew. Its three rotors, geared as shown at right, are powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin<sup>®</sup> 1,600-hp. engine, and give it a top speed of 154 m.p.h. The landing gear is built to absorb vertical shock if the engine fails below 150 feet. Above that height, autorotation (windmilling) provides enough lift for a conventional power-off landing.

Sky Compass Aids Polar Flight. This Navy compass works where other navigation aids fail-near the magnetic poles at times when neither sun nor stars are visible. Heart of the device is a Polaroid® glass lens with a clear cellophane star partially covering it. By rotating the lens until light from the sky seen through the Polaroid and cellophane is as bright as that seen through the Polaroid alone, the navigator can read the sun's direction on a scale. He then finds his direction of flight from tables. Developed by the National Bureau of Standards, the compass works because sunlight reflected by dust in the sky is polarizedvibrates in one direction-at right angles to the sun's direction. Thus, polarization angle tells the sun's direction.



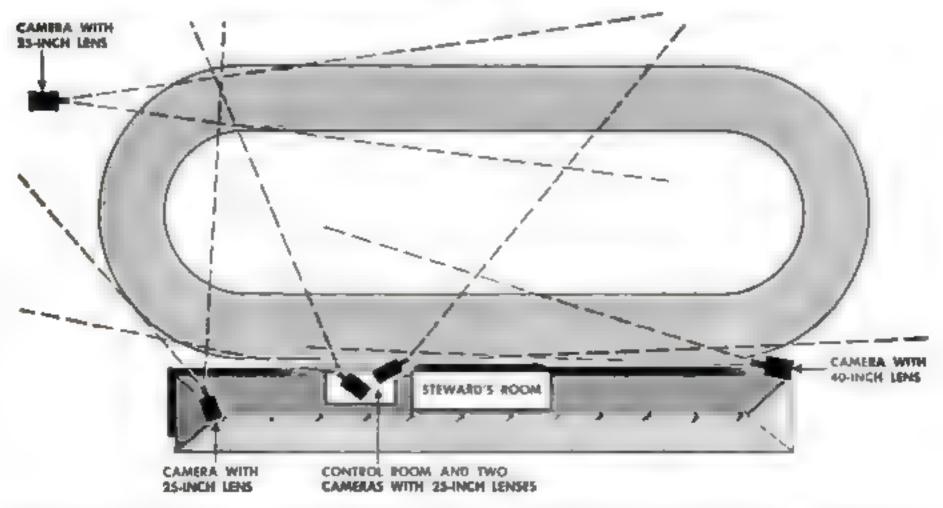


# TV Follows the Horses to Spot Racing Fouls



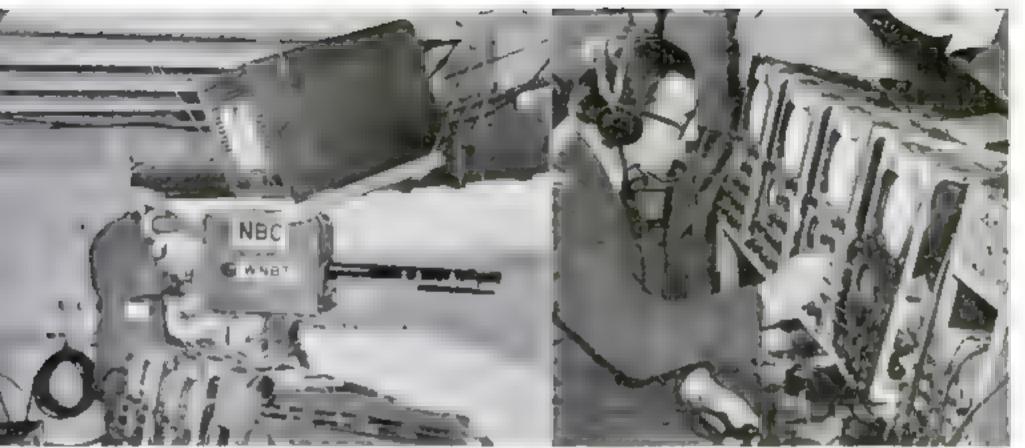
Overlooking the track, booth at left houses two of the television cameras and the control

monitors. Parabola atop booth relays the signal to the TV station for a broadcast to home sets.



Location of the five cameras for complete coverage of a race is shown above. Three

cameras give head-on view of horses. Coaxial cables connect cameras, booth, stewards' room,



Inside control room, monitor hanging from the roof shows image selected for relay to track officials. Man seen at camera in this photo is televising the race for home video reception.

Each camera is connected to a monitor in the control room, showing scene it is televising. An engineer controls the light levels and selects image to be sent to the judges' viewing screen,



Progressively selected television views of the race are projected on this screen in the steward's room, giving complete picture from start to finish, Projector is an RCA-Schmidt type,

By Harry Samuels

PS photos by Hubert Luckett

TELEVISION cameras came in a winner recently in trials for a new job at New York City's Jamaica Race Track.

In a test run, a battery of television cameras supplied track stewards with a close-up view of the horses from starting gate to finish line. Watching the race on a 32- by 44-in, silvered screen, they were able to detect any infraction of racing rules anywhere along the track.

Sample film strip taken of the monitor screen shows head-on view of horses entering home stretch. In addition, a sound track cornes an amounteer's running description of the race.

Now the inventors are seeking the approval of the various state racing commissions. They point out that one minute after the race is over, the stewards can back up any charge of a foul with a 16-mm, movie-film record. A special motion-picture comera photographs the TV scope, and the film is processed in less than a minute (PS, Jan, '49, p. 141).

Although the system is intended primarily for on-the-track use, the TV pickup can be transmitted for home reception, reports Harry A. Rose, the inventor.



Coming up the groove. Blimp approaching carrier's flight deck makes a landing circle like airplane. And even though speeds are slower, landings on narrow strip are just as tricky.



Over the deck. Blump is a little high for a perfect sit-down on carrier but is squared-off properly, according to the landing-signal officer's upstretched paddles. Lines trail from nose



Gas and gas. A fresh crew is aboard, wearing only life jackets because blimps work too low for parachetes. Gasoline for the still-turning engines is bosed in as quickly as possible. Gas

(helium) can also be supplied by the carrier. Note "human ballast" on the hand rails fore and aft. That big bundle in the stern (extreme left end of the car) is a rubber raft.

### Carrier-Based Blimps Aid Sub Hunters

F.S. Nacy photos aboard F.S.S. Sielly

TAKING the deck guns off submarines (PS, June '49, p. 98) has made the gasbag Navy a less vulnerable, more valuable sub chaser. A blimp can laze along just over the sea to give suspected water a good going over. Or it can speed up to 75 m.p.h.—far faster than any ship on or under the surface. And the big car has a lot of room for electronic search gear.

124 POPULAR SCIENCE



Touchdown: U.S.S. Sicily's flight-deck crews grab blimp's dangling lines, muscle the delicate-ly balanced gas hag to a landing on its single wheel, Propellers keep turning.



Flying on the deck. Pilot must keep airship flying all the time blump is on the deck. Doing so with car almost on deck is tricky business when the wind shifts.



Stand by to launch! Hold-down men strain on the lines as man with "fid" (left) waits signal to pull his wooden pin holding lines. Man at right keeps are ready for emergency.



There he goes. Motors roaring to gain flying speed, the big bag climbs sharply to get clear of the ship. Blimps are surprisingly nimble, but moment of launch is always hazardous.

The big disadvantage has been the short range of shore-based airships. Now the Navy is working on ways to base blimps on the carriers of hunter-killer task forces. Here are first pictures of the experimental operations in which blimps were kept out on patrol for days, far beyond normal cruising range.

For some anti-sub jobs, the blimps proved better than destroyers or airplanes. Because

blimps need handling only twice a day, roundthe-clock flight operations were simplified.

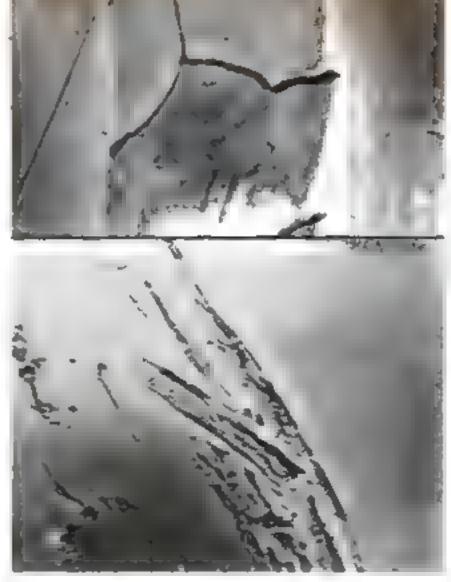
Supplied at sea with fresh crews, refueled, and re-armed, the "rubber submarines" will probably play an important part in anti-submarine warfare. Next step is some kind of retractable mooring mast on carriers for easier handling and to permit shutting down engines for maintenance work.



When this mammoth "derby swares do your forms a large spherical chamber with the inverted one below it. Called a photometer, the chamber is used to measure how much light is emitted by a lamp both placed inside. Here a Westinghouse engineer inserts a tiny radio-dial bulb for test.

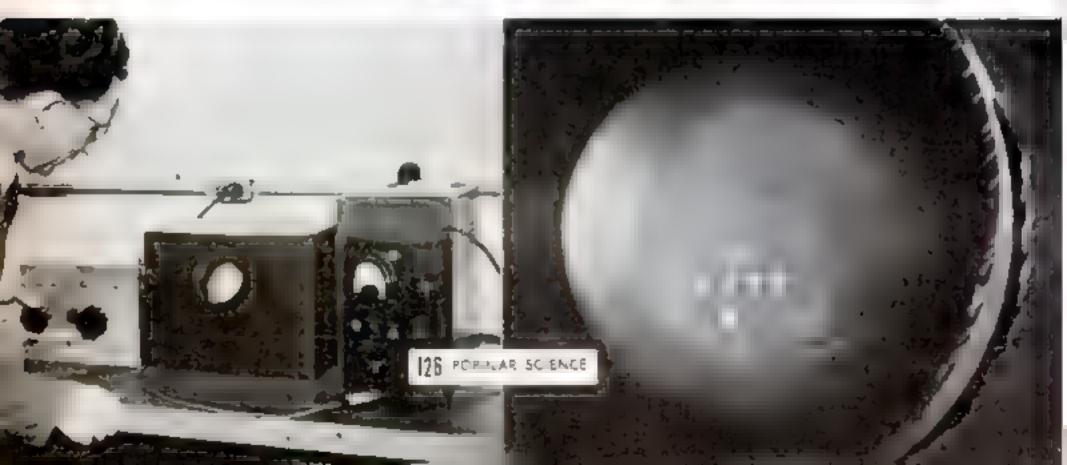
Alphabet Tube Spells Words.

By projecting letters and numbers on its screen (right, below), this new Charactront cathode-ray tube can spell out which is sages. Coded impulses guide the total beam to select and position the cost of th



Inside Story of Wenr. Why your wool coat wears out is shown in these pictures made by National Bureau of Standards seientists with the electron microscope. Originally a fiber of wool has a protective outer layer of strong interlocking scales (upper view). When this wears off, the soft inner structure (lower view) is exposed and soon disintegrates into a hole. The fibers were too thick to view directly, so pictures were made by using plastic impressions "shadowed" with a thun chromium coating.

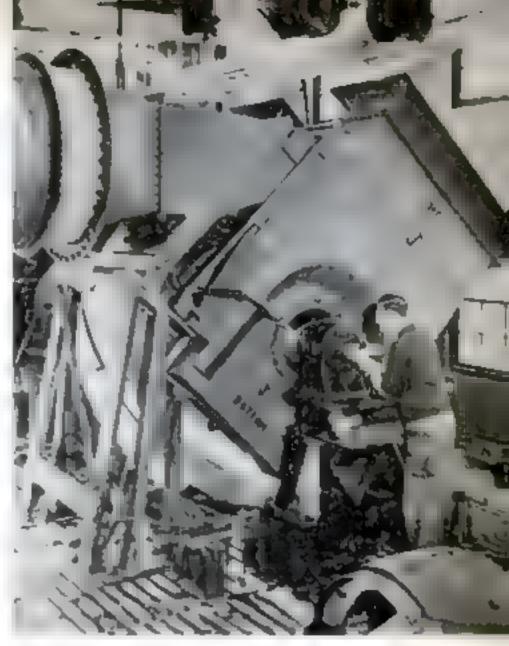
characters, which are cut out like stencils in a disk inside the tube. Inventor J. T. Mc-Nanev, Consolidated Vultee engineer, plans to use the tube of a recover to translate management to the property of the recover them on the party to 1,000,000 a minute





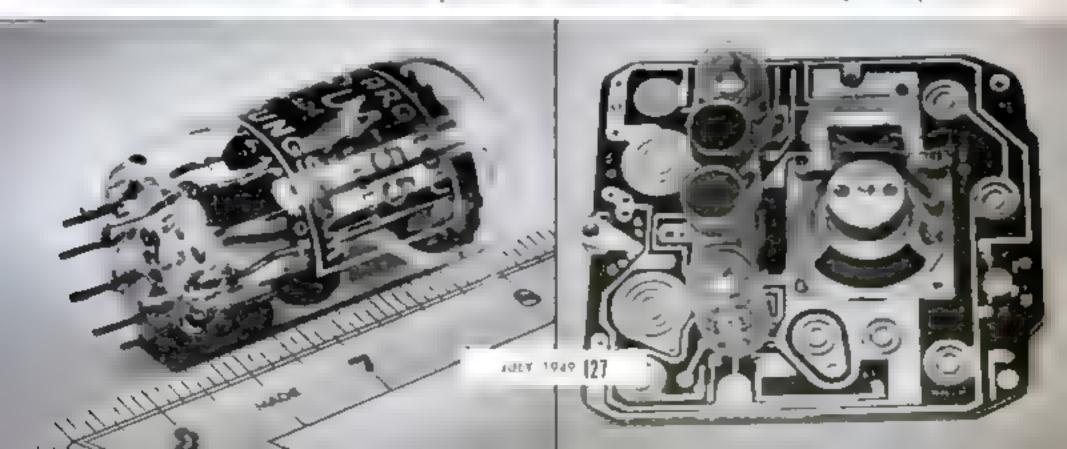
Taming Acceptence. Through a peop-hole in steel arrior an observer back ground watches are attorned enew process. Out may produce synthetic claimeds for making about textiles does and medicines. Its solace is acctylene under high heat and pressure. This is made possible by new sidety techniques including dilution of the acctylene with most gas, to reduce explosion risk. Diveloped by Griman physicists, this method is being used for the first time in the U.S. by the General Ambre & F. In Corp.

Badio Tube Does All Johs. This new Sargreve-Lungsgreen UA 55' radio tube cleft below) can be made to do the mb of day tube in a receiver Form RF to audio output. Its split grad design with a separate socket contact for each half grad permuts it.



Tornado" to Cool Pile. Twelve foot lagh Howers, like the one shown under test in the Westinghouse plant at Buston will provide a formado of or to coel the saw atomic pile at Brockhaven National I dioratery. Upton, N.Y. Fach 35 foot diameter fan is driven by a 1,500-hp motor at a 450 nap h rim speed, yet is said to be or usually quart. Each one handles 80 000 cubic feet of heated air a number Brook haven's reactor. PS. Apr. '19, p. 121) is the world's most powerful an enoled pre-

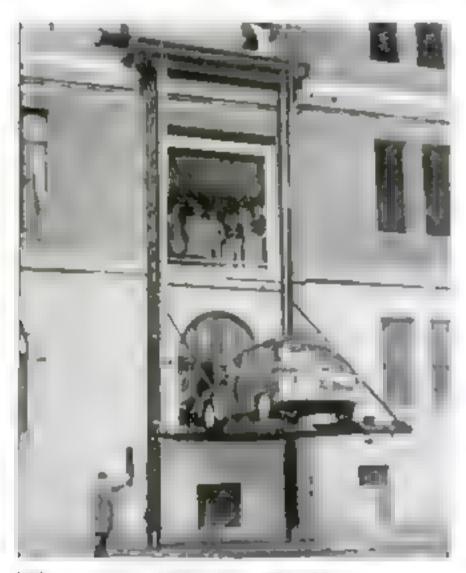
to be connected in a variety of ways according to its furction. This aids production and servicing of I we cost radio sets for users in remote areas. The tube's first use was in the mass produced, printed-enemit receiver shown at right below (PS) Apr. 48 p. 160)





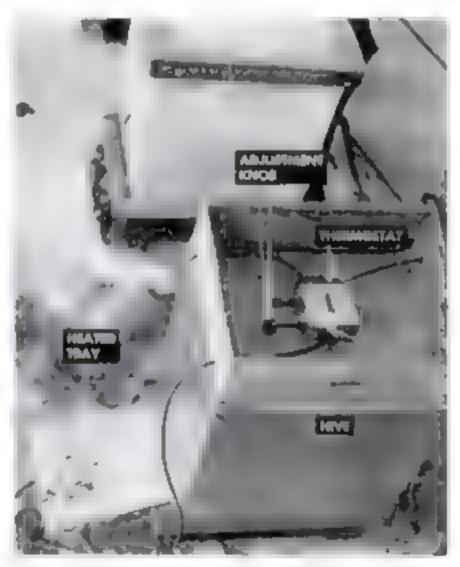
#### Concrete "Logs" Make Cabins

"Loo" cabins for the dudes at one Califorma ranch have walls that aren't wood at all. The "logs" are hollow concrete pipe, stacked on alternate layers of small, pre-cast saddle blocks. Concrete lids plug the pipe ends, as shown above at right. The cabins look like authentic Old West buildings, yet can be quickly built and are cool and fireproof. Those above are on John F. Van Leuven's River Way Ranch, at Three Rivers.



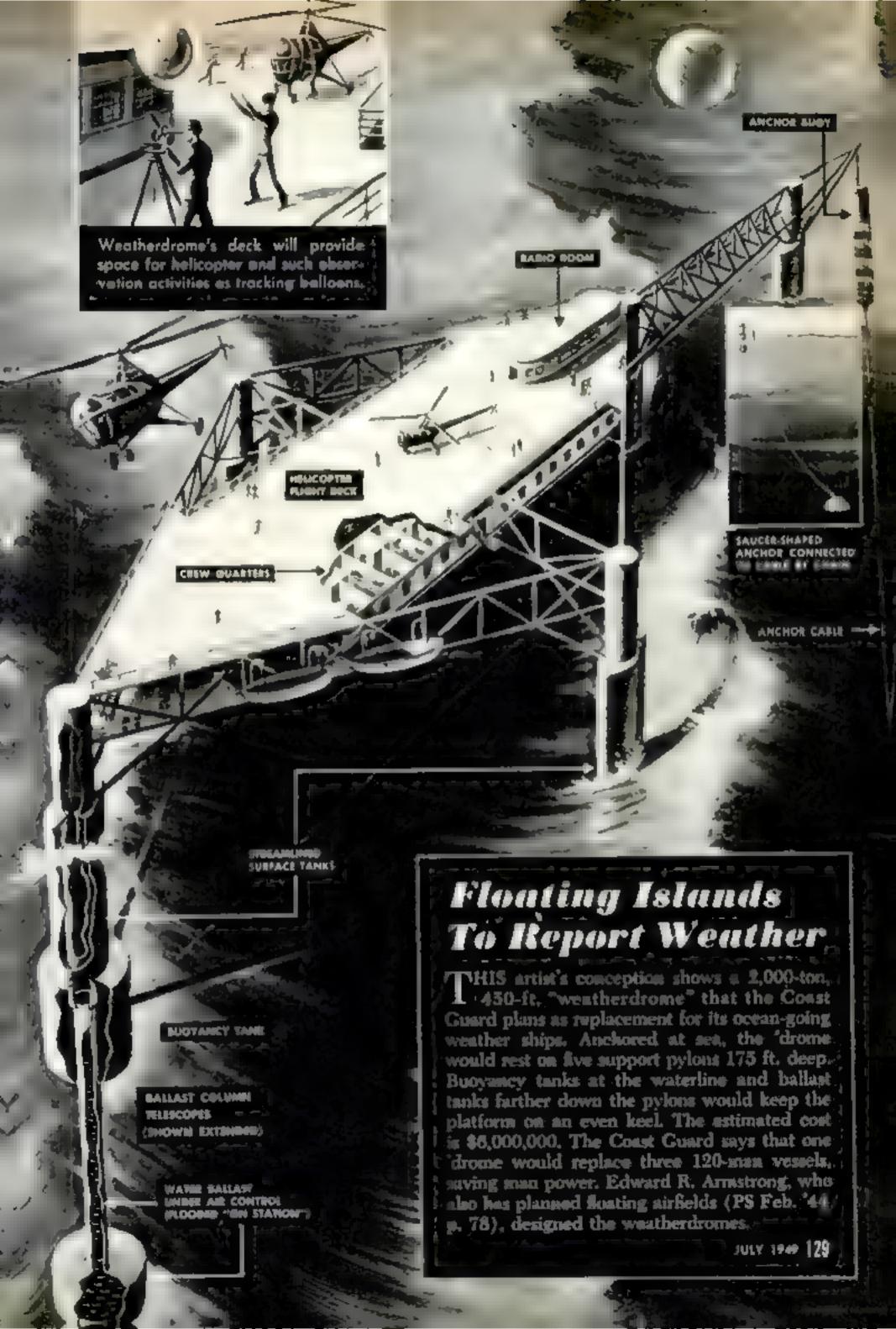
#### Elevator Climbs Wall

A NEW kind of elevator that rides outside a building permits heavy, bulky merchandise to be brought inside even when there are no ordinary freight handling facilities. The Wall Climber Hoist<sup>®</sup> has a braced platform that rides up two rails set against the building wall. It can handle objects up to 18 by 10 by 9 ft. in size, weighing up to 7,000 lb. Photo shows it lifting a car into the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.



#### Electric Blankets Warm Bees

Now bees have electric "blankets" to keep them warm during cold northern winters. The "blankets" are aluminum trays, containing Nichrome\* resistance wires, that fit inside the hives. The bees cluster over the units, keeping warm during cold weather when many bees normally die. One thermostat controls the "blankets" in 20 hives. The photo shows hives at U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Experiment Station, Madison, Wis.





#### **Baby Buggy Comes Apart**

GETTING a baby carriage up and down stairs is easy with this one. It just comes apart, the upper part lifting off a foldable

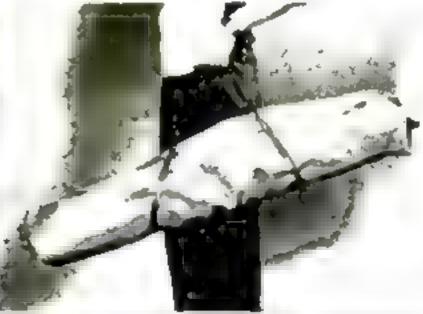


chassis (right above). The buggy's body, made of wood fibers bonded with Vinylite® resins, is said to be as strong as plywood. Carry-Cab Corp., of New York City, makes the carriage, which weighs less than 35 lb.



#### Playpen Doubles as Wading Pool

This 8%-lb., portable playpen, built of aluminum tubing and fish net, can be used as a pool. A damp-proof plastic bottom turns up

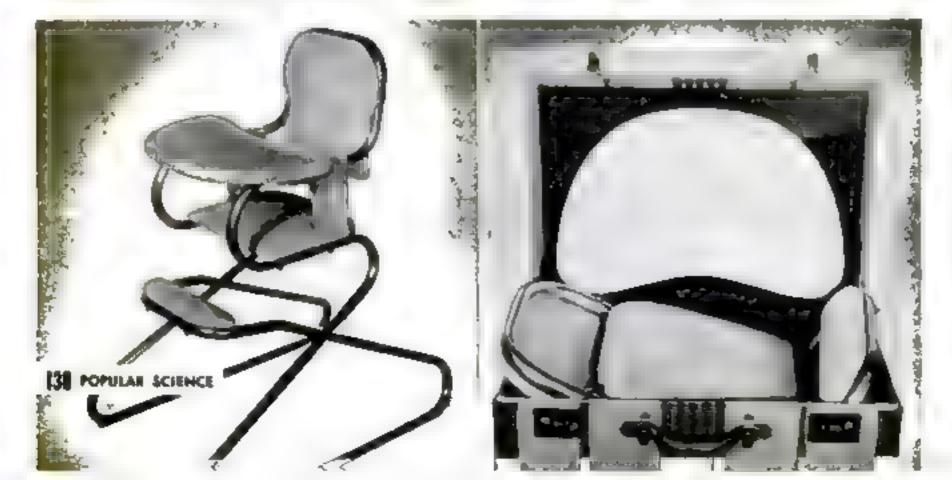


at the edges to hold water. When the playpen is collapsed for carrying, its parts are rolled together and held by a strap, as shown at right above. Called the Playinet<sup>®</sup>, it is made by Dodge-Culp, Inc., of Little Neck, N. Y.

#### Highehair Goes on Vacation

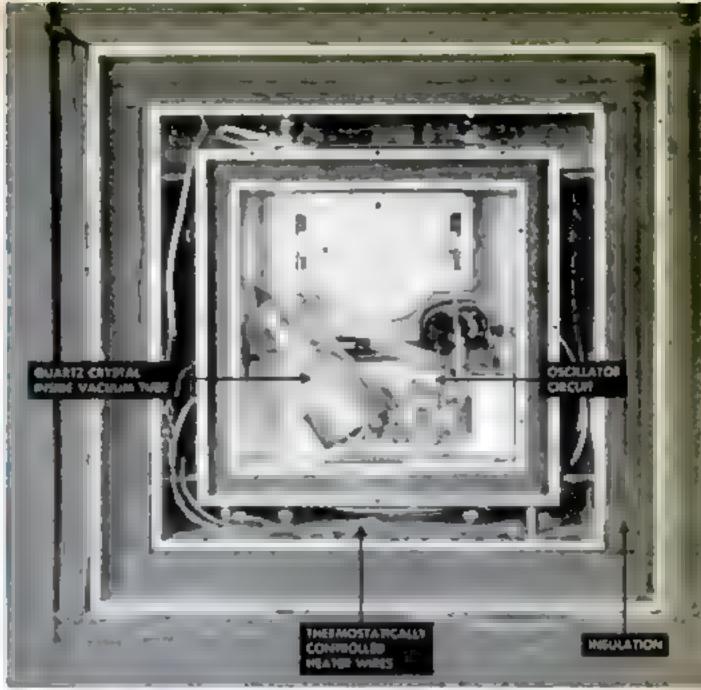
JUNIOR's highchair, below, collapses so you can take it on vacation. Made of aluminum tubing and washable plastic, the chair weighs

only 10 pounds and is designed not to tip. When it is taken apart for traveling, everything but the tubing fits into a small suitcase, as shown at right below. It is made by WooDick Corp. of Madison, Wis.











EARTHOUAKE RESEARCH



POWER SYNCHIONIZATION

Insulated box guards one of the quartz crystals whose ticks are broadcast to variety of mers. They help keep electric clocks on time, hold radio transmitters on the beam, and aid navigators and scientists.

## WWV's Sharp Tunes Keep World in Step



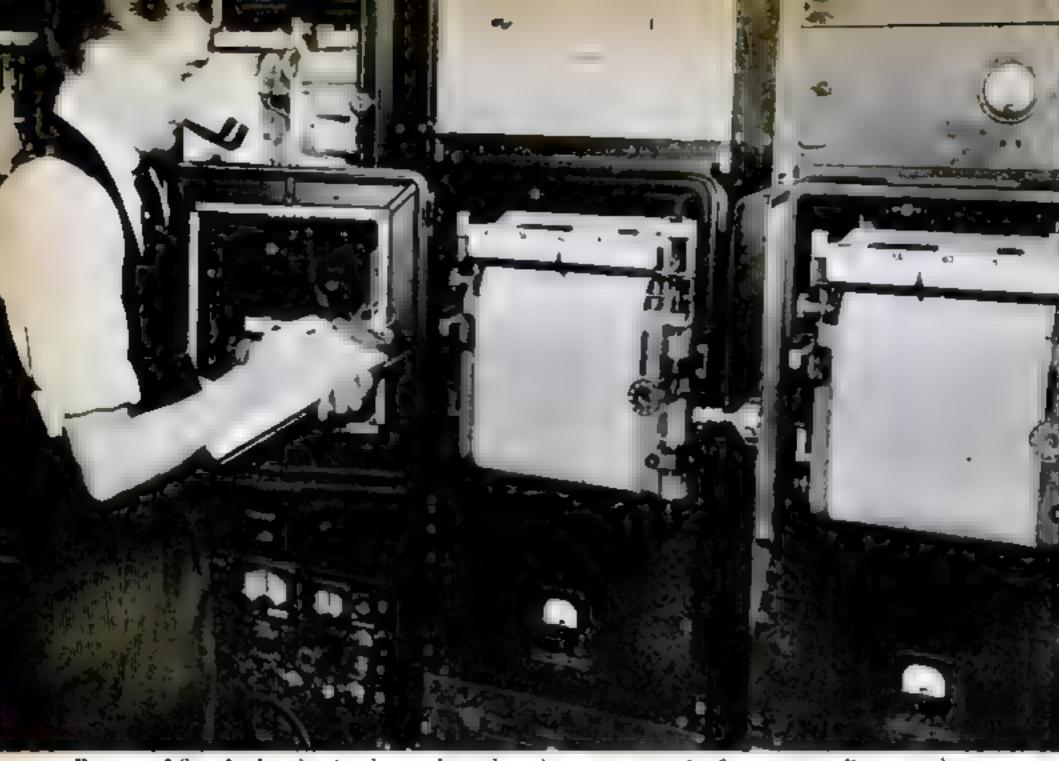
NAVIGATION

By Martin Mann

HIDDEN among the Maryland farms about 20 miles north of Washington, D. C., is a radio station that is on the air 24 hours a day—with some of the world's dullest-sounding programs. Listeners-in hear only whistles, clicks, and a few staccato Morse-code signals, interrupted periodically by a deep voice saying: "This is WWV, radio sta-

tion of the National Bureau of Standards."

Yet, to a lot of people all over the world, these monotonous sounds are more interesting than Jack Benny—so interesting that the Bureau recently started another station, WWVH, in Hawaii. These odd sounds provide ultra-precise yardsticks for measuring frequency and time. They help hold radio



Bureau of Standards scientists keep tabs with automatic recorders on quartz crystal oscillators

that set nation's frequencies. Pen wiggles indicate an error-here a few parts in a billion

broadcasts on the beam, tell power companies how to adjust their generators so your electric clock keeps good time, and the sending of photographs by wire and radio, tune musical instruments, and assist scientists and engineers studying earthquakes, running geological surveys, and making all kinds of measurements.

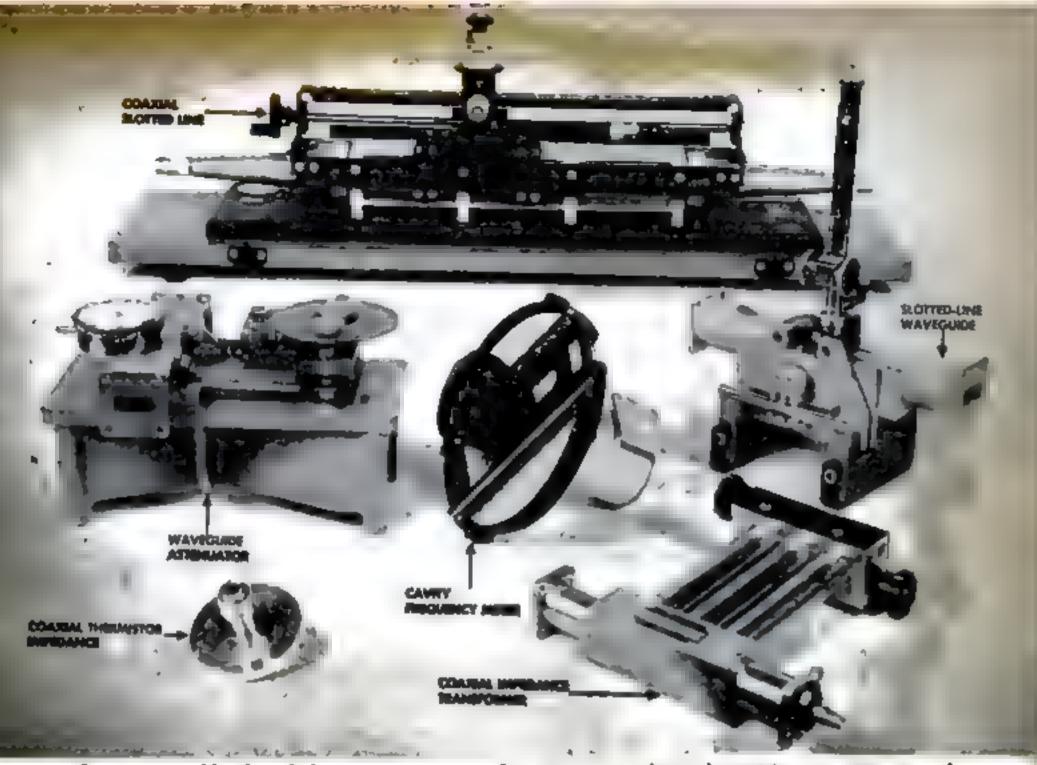
Radio engineers must keep their transmitters tuned to their assigned frequencies—the FCC permits variations of only 20 cycles, about .002 percent. They do this with a frequency meter, which is essentially an extremely accurate radio receiver. But how can they be sure the meter itself is calibrated correctly? They check it against the signals from WWV, which vary less than one part in 50,000,000, or .000002 percent.

Some musicians and most of the manufacturers of musical instruments no longer trust their ears to judge the standard note "A." For them, WWV continuously broadcasts the "A" note—a 440-cycle whistle. The companies that make radio sets use one or another of WWV's ultra-precise frequencies to test the instruments with which they adjust new radio and television receivers. And anybody who needs to know what time it is with equal accuracy—and a surprising number of people do—can listen to WWV's second ticks and the time announcement every his minutes in Morse code. The second ticks are actually beeps of 1,000-cycle whistles exactly one second apart and lasting 5/1,000 of a second.

It takes a lot of very fancy electronic equipment to keep the nation's time (frequency is simply another way of stating time). But the basic gadget that marks seconds and tiny fractions of a second so accurately is nothing but a piece of quartz, chemically the same as sand on a beach.

When quartz is vibrated mechanically, it generates electrical vibrations. Some phonograph pickups, for example, use quartz crystals to change the vibrations of the needle into electricity. WWV has three quartz crystals, shaped with a jeweler's precision to vibrate exactly 100,000 times a second.

The crystals are protected from drafts, dampness, and cold more cautiously than a week-old baby. First of all, they are mounted inside sealed vacuum tubes. Then each crys-



Instruments like these help measure power and frequency of microwaves. They are made with

extreme mechanical precision, consisting mostly of accurately dimensioned pipes and cylinders.

tal tube is enclosed in a heavily insulated box that has a built-in electric heater and thermostat. And the boxes are kept in an air-conditioned, concrete vault 30 feet below the ground. The vault is locked—no one goes inside except in emergencies, for, despite these precautions, the crystals are so accurate that heat from a human body throws them off!

#### "Best" Crystal Runs the Show

All three crystals run continuously, but only the one that is "keeping the best time" is selected for broadcasting. This "best" 100,000-cycle wave operates everything at WWV. It is divided, with practically no loss in accuracy, into frequencies as low as 60 cycles, so that it can drive ordinary electric-clock motors used to switch the signals on and off. Other divisions provide the standard 440-cycle and 4,000-cycle whistles. It is multiplied, again with little loss in accuracy, to make the carrier frequencies on which WWV broadcasts. Five transmission frequencies, from 2,500,000 cycles to 85,000,000 cycles, are used to insure world-wide coverage.

Quartz crystals are the best standards of

time and frequency we now have, but they do possess some disadvantages. They drift steadily. A good crystal clock may gain several seconds a year, even though its accuracy over 10-minute periods is better than one part in a billion. They operate at comparatively low frequencies, so that measurements up in the high microwave region can be made only by frequency multiplication, which involves much equipment and some loss in accuracy.

Good frequency standards are badly needed at the very high frequencies. The microwave relays that form inter-city television networks, for example, operate around 3 billion cycles. An error of .002 percent seems small, but at those frequencies it amounts to 60,000 cycles. You can fit six standard radio stations in 60,000 cycles! Thus, by reducing the amount of error, it might be possible to squeeze more stations into the overcrowded radio space.

In television, too, better frequency control may become vital if many networks adopt RCA's new system of synchronizing broadcasts from two stations using the same channel but in different cities. Extremely accurate



Interchangeable components permit WWV, Bureau's station, to broadcast on several frequencies. High-powered transmitter covers world night and day with WWV's time and frequency signals.

synchronization would permit use of the same channel by stations much closer together than is now possible. Without it, televiewers in between the two stations would see "venetian-blind" interference on their

The very high frequencies are finding many other applications, too. Radar works up there, for example. So do the new navigation systems, weather-reporting networks, blind-bombing techniques, control systems for guided missiles, atom smashers, industrial heating devices, and some medical instruments.

One of the new uses of very high frequencies is microwave spectroscopy—the study of the way atoms and molecules absorb microwave radio beams. From this study are coming promising methods of controlling frequency and telling time.

All atoms and molecules can be made to change their internal arrangements if fed energy of the correct frequency. They will soak up energy of just that frequency and no other. This means they can be used as standards of frequency or time. They are more accurate

than quartz crystals and would never drift. They would even be more accurate than the present ultimate standard of time, the rotation of the earth — which is slowing down enough to make a difference of around half a minute every century, besides changing for no good reason every once in a while.

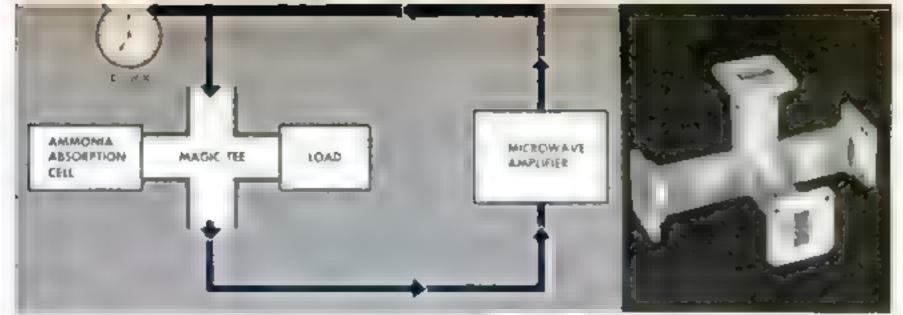
For some substances, like ammonia, one of these absorption frequencies occurs in the microwave range. The Bureau of Standards has already made a combination frequency standard and clock that is controlled by the microwave absorption of ammonia (PS, Mar. '49, p. 143). It has a quartz crystal and frequency multipliers to generate the 24-billioncycle signal absorbed by ammonia. The signal is fed into a tube containing ammonia, which will absorb most of it as long as it is at exactly the right frequency, creating a dip in the output from the other end of the ammonia container. Variations in the dip automatically adjust the crystal to bring it back to the right frequency.

But the ammonis clock still requires clumsy and expensive equipment—quartz crystals, frequency multipliers, and servo-mechanisms. Dr. Harold Lyons, who built the first model, is now trying to eliminate these by working down from the high atomic frequencies instead of up from the low crystal frequencies.

#### "Magic-Tee" Controls Atom Clock

One possible method will use a "magic tee," a T-shaped arrangement of square copper pipes (waveguides). The magic tee acts as an electric gate. When the electrical loads on the two arms are balanced, no current (very, very high frequency current, that is) gets through the straight part. But when the loads are unbalanced, current will flow. In Dr. Lyons' proposed setup, the load on one arm will be a cell filled with ammonia gas, which will balance the load on the other arm so long as it does not absorb any current. The ammonia will absorb current only at its 24-billion-cycle absorption frequency, so the loads can be unbalanced only at this frequency, and only current of this frequency can get through the magic-tee gate. This precisely regulated frequency can then be divided into any desired value. The chief difficulty here is building the 24-billion-cycle amplifier needed to go with the device.

An ammonia clock should be accurate to about one part in 100,000,000—twice as good as a quartz-crystal clock. It might be even more accurate except for a characteristic of



Quartz erystals may lose their jobs as nation's timekeepers to more reliable ammonia molecules. One proposed ammonia clock (above) uses a microwave "feedback" oscillator controlled by

"magic tee," a T-shaped connection of square pipes (at right above). This acts as electric gate, with ammonia as gatekeeper, permitting only correct frequency to get to amplifier and clock.

all atoms and molecules. We have been telling you that atoms and molecules absorb radio waves of exactly one frequency. Actually, however, this is not quite true. They really absorb waves over narrow ranges of frequencies, which thus limits their accuracy. The width of these ranges depends on the particular atom or molecule, the speed at which it moves, and how much it is bounced around by bumps against the walls of the container and other atoms or molecules.

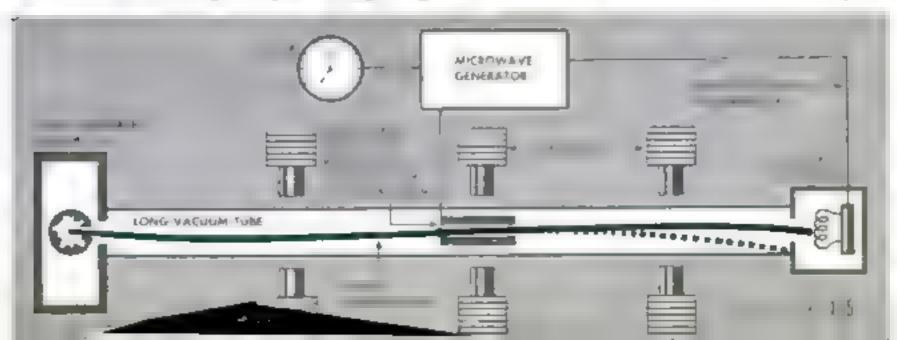
In the search for still higher accuracy, a somewhat different atomic clock is being designed for the Bureau by Prof. Polykarp Kusch, of Columbia University's atomicbeam laboratory. Dr. Kusch's clock will use atoms of cesium, a soft, gilvery metal used in photoelectric cells. They will travel down a long vacuum tube, past several magnets, to a hot tungsten collector wire. The magnets will be arranged to make the cesium atoms move in a curved path that ordinarily misses the collector wire. However, when radio waves of just the right frequency (about 10 billion cycles) are applied to the cesium atoms near the center of their path, the internal magnetism of the atoms will be altered. changing their path so that they do hit the

collector wire. Almost as soon as the cesium atoms strike the hot tungsten, they boil off, but leave behind their electrons. The electrons added to the collector make a signal current that is amplified to control the 10-billion-cycle radio-wave generator, the signal appearing only as long as the generator is at the right frequency. The signal's absence automatically corrects the generator.

The beam clock, still in the planning stage, is expected to be accurate to about one part in 10 billion. It will be much better than the ammonia clock, mainly because its thin stream of cesium atoms will not suffer as much from collisions. One difficulty, however, will be getting rid of the cesium metal that will build up on parts of the apparatus, eventually clogging the narrow slits that keep the beam sharp.

These new devices—and others that are still vague ideas in the brains of Bureau of Standards physicists—will make time and frequency measurements more fantastically precise than ever before. They will make WWV's broadcasts more interesting to scientists, engineers, and military men. But to anybody else, the whistles, clicks, and code signals will still sound as dull as ever.

Still more accurate clock would send atoms of cenium down long tube between magnets. Microwaves of right frequency change internal magnetism of atoms, making their path through magnetic field shift to take them to collector wire. Atoms hitting collector create signal that holds generator on right frequency. Potential accuracy of the atom clock is one-second error in 300 years.



## How Much Wind Can You Stand?

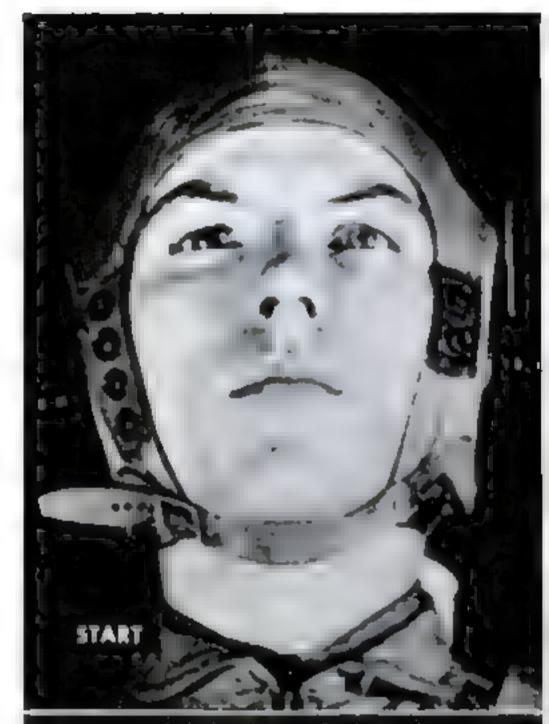
THE Navy's doctors know now what happens to a man when he bails out of an airplane going almost 460 m.p.h. And contrary to some German reports, based on wartime research, they find that while he can take it, it sure pushes him out of shape.

Two enlisted men volunteered for tests in an eight-foot wind tunnel at the Naval Medical Research Center, Langley Field, Va. Its 36-blade, 16,000-hp. fan blew dust-free air at them for one or two seconds at a time at speeds up to 458 m.p.h. As shown at right, cameras recorded what happened.

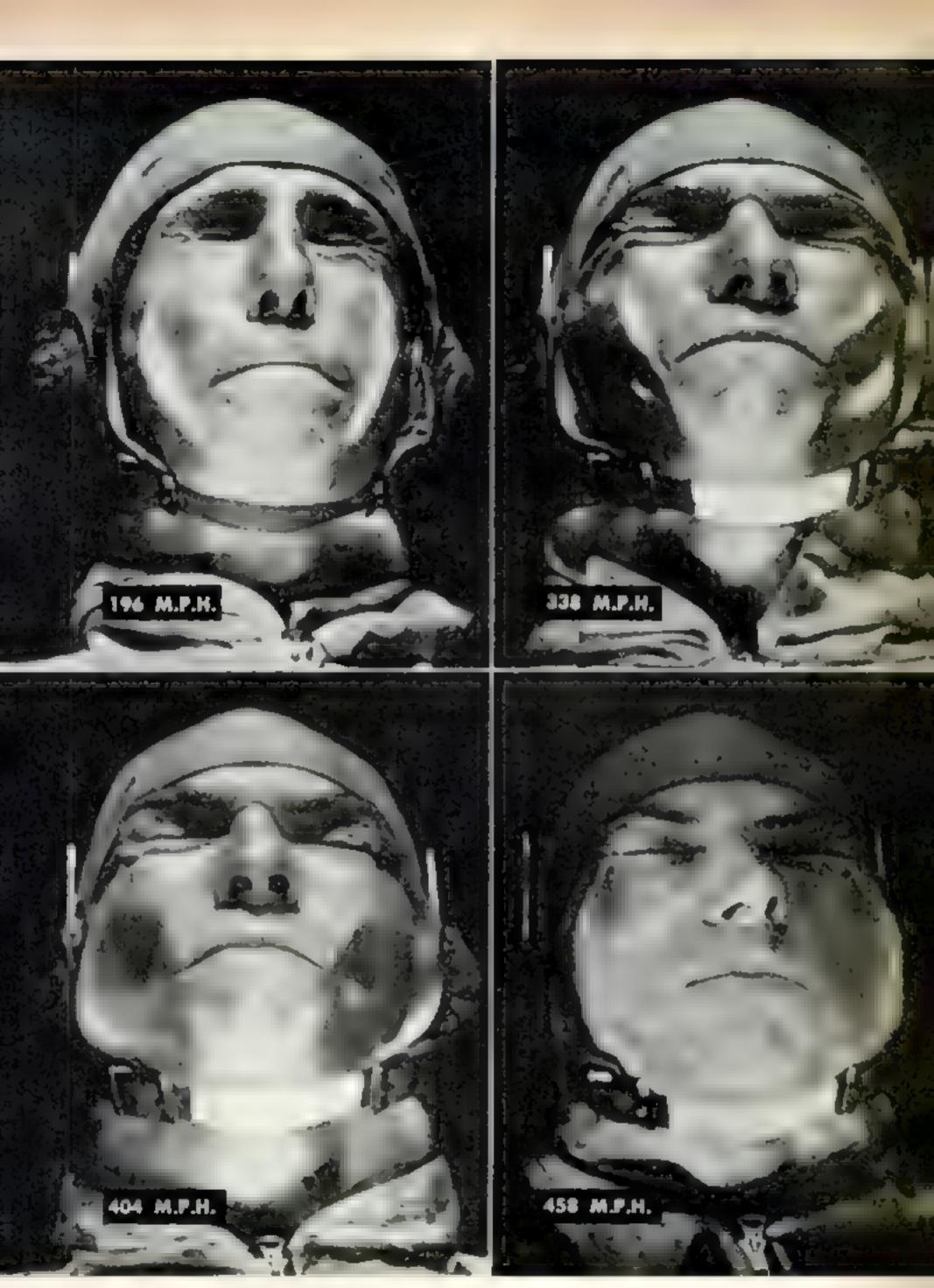
At as little as 131 m.p.h. the skin tissue over the cheeks and neck began to ripple. The wind flattened wrinkles, pushed the nose to one side, and spread back the loose skin on the neck. At 195 m.p.h. the heavily padded flight helmet worn was found to have too much wind resistance, and a tighter, cloth helmet was substituted.

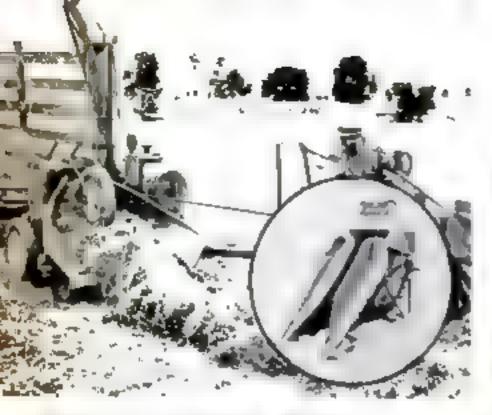
As velocities got above 400 m.p.h. the men had to tilt their heads slightly forward to keep their eyes closed—the wind tended to blow them open. The doctors estimated that at 458 m.p.h. the "local velocities"—the speed of the windover the curved areas of the face—might have been as high as 728 m.p.h., only slightly less than the speed of sound. The men complained of no particular discomfort, but without the lab's elaborate safety precautions things might have been a lot different.

As a result of the test, Navy pilots and aircrewmen will probably wear face hoods for protection in bailouts at high speeds.









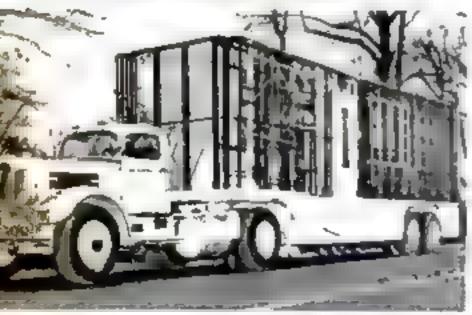
#### Harvester Chops Silage

Quick change-over from windrow to rowcrop working is easy on this new automatic field harvester. An attachment for either operation can be teamed up with the basic unit in about 15 minutes. If necessary, they can be swapped right in the field in a half-hour.

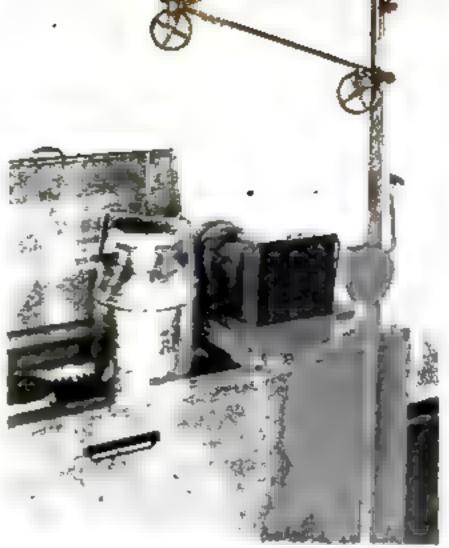
Pictured above is the combination that automatically picks up hay from the windrow, chops it, and blows it into a trailing truck for removal to sile. Shown in inset is the com-harvesting unit, which sweeps along a row, cutting and chopping corn for silage. A device that shakes out dirt and stones is also available for use with the windrow pickup. The equipment is made by New Holland Machine Co., of New Holland, Pa.

#### Trailer Totes Whole House

This tractor-trailer packs a whole house. Its 80 compartments are loaded at the end of the factory assembly line with 3,300 parts and 4,000 nuts and bolts—including all plumbing and fixtures—needed to erect a porcelain-enameled Lustron Home. At the home-owner's location, the trailer with its 46,000-lb. load serves as a complete home-construction storehouse. White Motor Co., of Cleveland, makes the trucks.



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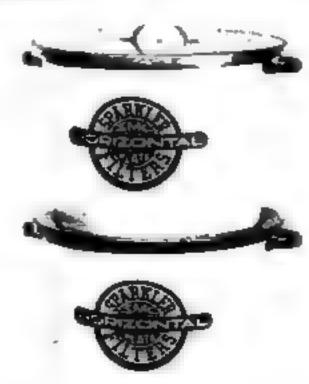


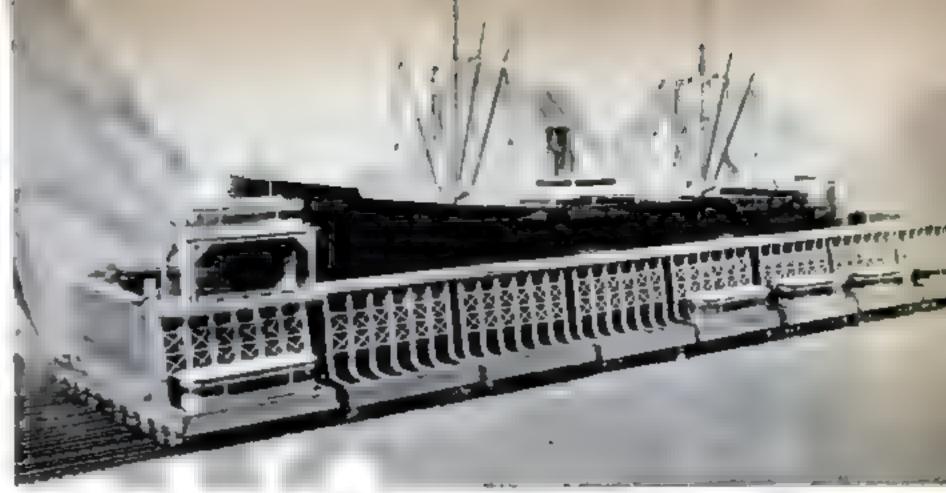
#### **Hoist Saves Lifting Milk**

A CHILD can lift full milk cans into or out of a 2%-ft.-high electric cooler with this new hoist. Farmers, who lift more than a ton a day if their production reaches 10 cans of milk, now need only fasten a clamp around the neck of the can and turn a self-locking crank. The new hoist is non-electric and uses a stranded steel cable. Developed by Westinghouse as an attachment for a milk cooler, it retails for about \$32.95.

#### Portable Filter Purifies Water

GRAVITY does all the work in this double-deck water filter. So simple and easy to carry that it can be set up anywhere, it lets water drip from the top container to the lower one. All sediment, off-color chlorine taste, and other impurities are taken up by two stain-less-steel screens and a carbon pad, which contains an element eliminating bacteria in the pad itself. Sparkler Mfg. Co., Mundelein, Ill., makes it.





Model shows cradic carrying 15,000-ton ship on ten tracks across the Isthmus of Tehnantepec.

### Bathtub Trains May Haul Ships

BiG ships may someday be carried bodily across the mountains of Mexico. This ambitious plan is being urged as the best way to end Panama Canal traffic jams.

The ships would be hauled across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, route of the '49ers, floating in water-filled cradles like huge toys in bathtubs. These "bathtubs" would be supported by railroad trucks rolling on ten pairs of tracks, laid side by side. Built-in locomotive units would power the cradle.

At the two ocean terminals, the tracks would run down grade into the water, like the tracks used to haul out yachts. The empty cradle would be run down and filled with water, and the ship would enter the cradle just like a drydock. The gates would then be closed, and the cradle, now carrying the floating ship, would roll up onto dry land.

The route of the ship railway would roughly parallel the 188-mile railroad that now crosses the isthmus. Backers of the plan declare it less expensive than a doubled Panama Canal or a new canal over another route. It should also be less vulnerable to air bombing. Such a line has been proposed in France between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean (PS, Nov. '32, p. 43).

Sketch shows how huge eradle would be mounted on 1,200 railroad wheels. Ends of the cradle would open out like big gates for the ship to enter and leave via canals at the two terminals.

Map shows how shorter route along West Coast would save 1,000 miles—up to four days—on runs between Atlantic and Pacific ports. Line would extend between Puerto Mexico and Salina Cruz.



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#### French Truck Lugs 130 Tons

Tais new French truck could almost carry in its cab the Renault shown alongside. One of the world's largest tractor-trailers, it weighs 75 tons and can carry a 130-ton load at about 9 m.p.h. It is 86% ft. long, 13 ft. high, and 15 ft. wide. The eight-cylinder, 220-hp. engine has 12 speeds forward and four in reverse. The tractor was designed by Willeme and the trailer by Scari for the Lancia Co. The truck will be used in Portugal.



#### Blg Truck Is Post Office

Newest addition to the Government's fleet of rolling post offices is this SuperTwin® that carries 30 percent more mail than a railway post office. It is 45 ft, long, but has a turning radius of only 35 ft., thanks to its articulated design and interconnected front- and rear-

wheel steering. A vertical hinge at the articulation point (behind center axle) lets the Twin Coach Co. truck "breathe" on hills and prevents jackknifing on slippery roads.

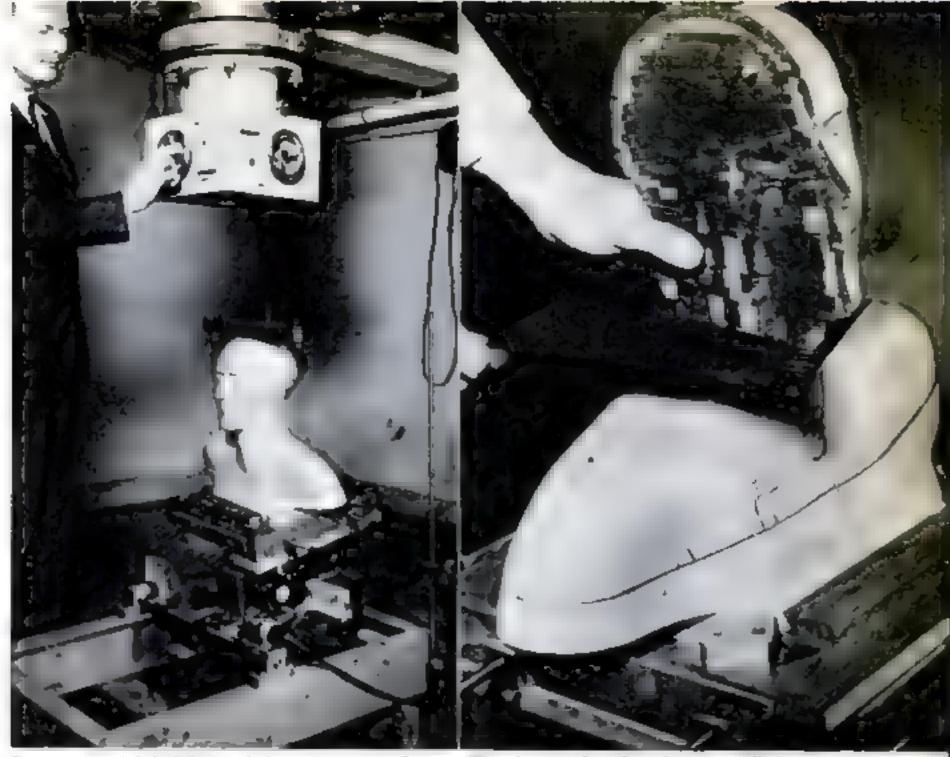
Power for the huge mobile post office will be provided by dual Fageol® engines—giving a total of 360 hp.—mounted amidships. They are equipped with automatic transmissions.



#### Hinged Truck Tips Waste Out

Tens huge wastebasket on wheels (left) now trundles scrap in industrial plants. The three-ton body is hinged so that it can be tilted away from the chassis. Then the whole side drops like a gate to dump the trash easily. Called the Trash-Truk®, it is made by Service Caster & Truck Corp., of Albion, Mich.

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Generator of 3,000,000-volt X rays is trained on "Mr. Crukshank," wooden phantom man, by Dr. John G. Trump of M.I.T. Dununy has probably had more X rays than any human patient in world.

Film being placed in dummy will show penetration of X rays through layers of wood and other porous materials, which closely simulate the densities of the bones, tissues, and skin of a man,

### Mr. Cruikshank Tests X Rays

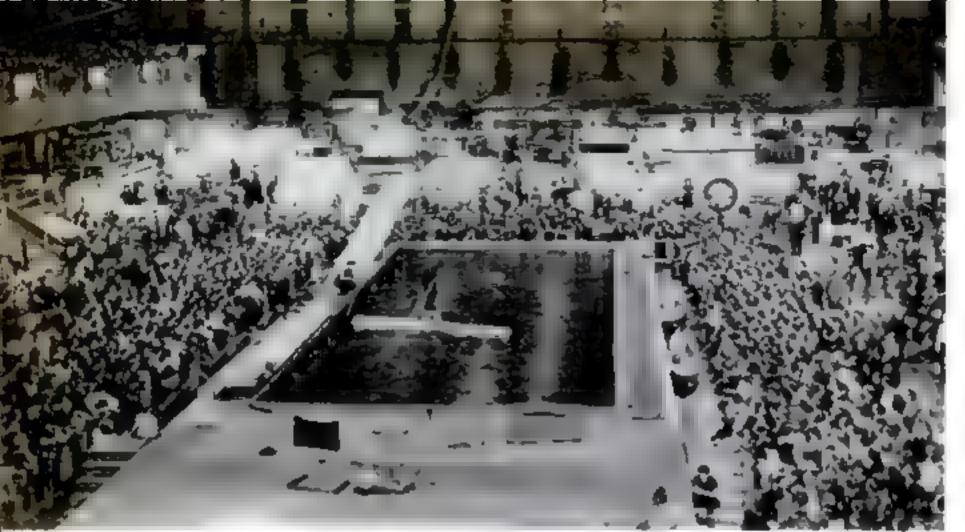
A WOODEN man is helping Massachusetts
Institute of Technology scientists to
study the medical usefulness of multimillionvolt X rays from powerful new machines.

Mr. Cruikshank, as they have nicknamed their lifelike dummy, has more than an external resemblance to a human being. His head and shoulders, built up of layers of wood and other porous materials, come close to matching the densities of bone, tissue, and skin. Therefore, X rays fired at him will penetrate about as deeply and with the same effectiveness as they would in the same parts of a human being.

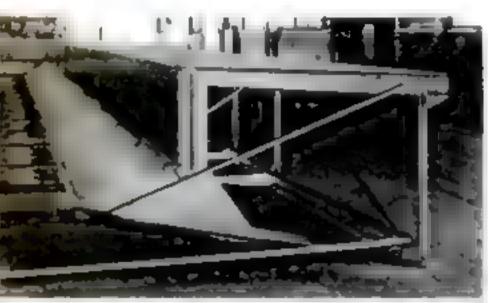
Since the helpful Mr. Cruikshank has the additional advantage of being sectional, X-ray film may be inserted at various places in his anatomy. When the films are developed after a test exposure, they show the amount of radiation that would penetrate to a corresponding depth in the human body.

Devised by Dr. John G. Trump and Dr. J. Eugene Nelson of M.LT., Mr. Cruikshank has been receiving a series of test exposures under 3,000,000-volt X rays from a Van de Graaff electrostatic generator (an atom smasher used in cancer treatment and nuclear research). For comparison, he will next undergo treatments with conventional 250,000-volt X-ray machines, as a "patient" at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Much as a projectile's range may be augmented by increasing the propelling charge. X rays are known to take maximum effect at a depth that increases with their voltage. Using suitably stepped-up voltage, doctors now hope to concentrate the rays upon deep turnors without harming the skin or intervening healthy tissue. The M.I.T. studies, supported by a research grant from the American Cancer Institute, aim to perfect this sharpshooting technique.



Baltimore armory crowd thrills to a log-rolling contest in dismountable plastic swim tank.



Aluminum framework of Martin-developed water tank is shown above partly assembled. At left is basin for plastic-coated duck liner. Part of walkway bordering pool is seen at the right.

Plastic sheeting to line pool is unfolded a panel at a time, and spread manually over surface and sides of structural framework. Workmen's shoes are covered to protect coated surface of liner.



### 68-Ft. Pool Folds Up

WHEN the League of Maryland Sportsmen decided to add aquatic events to their annual show in one of Baltimore's strictly landlubber armories, Glenn L. Martin engineers and chemists came to the rescue with a tailor-made, come-apart swimming pool.

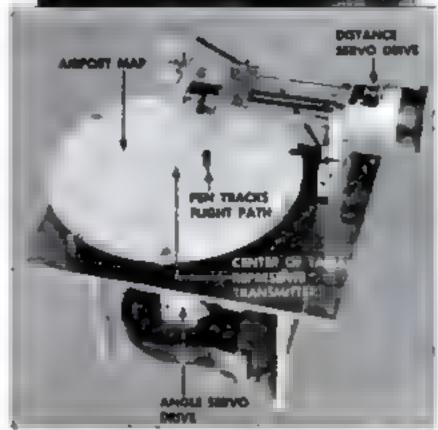
The engineers designed and built a dismountable aluminum frame, 32 feet wide, 68 feet long, and 4 feet deep. Meanwhile, the chemical boys had developed a heavy-duty duck material, coated with Marvinol® plastic, to line the tank. To make it watertight, its rectangular component strips were stitched together with vinyl dope. Combining flexibility with strength, the plastic tank holds 32,500 gallons of water, or some 600 times its own weight of 437 pounds. For storage, it can be folded into a compact bundle about four feet square.

The structural elements, besides the pool framework, consist of a walkway all around, a platform, and portable ramps and steps. Dismounted, the equipment occupies less than 1,000 square feet of storage space.

It takes a dozen men about three working days to put up the structure and install the plastic pool liner. With a fire hose, the tank can be filled in three hours.

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#### Bread Truck Keeps on the Beam

AUTOMATIC air navigation devices of tomorrow are going through their growing pains in a converted bread truck. "Flying blind," it has worn out more than one set of tires up and down the runways and taxi strips of MacArthur Field, the Sperry Gyroscope Co. research center on Long Island, N. Y.

Blind "flying," with the truck's driver sitting "under the hood" and "piloting" down the runway on instruments, is an old story. More recently, the unique vehicle has been used to evaluate a new position finder for pilots that continuously traces a plane's position on a map. Microwave signals are transmitted by a ground station. This information is interpreted by electronic devices that in turn plot an exact course on a map on a turntable, shown in lower photo above. Thus a pilot can see exactly where he is at all times even though he cannot see the ground, and he can fly in zero-zero weather without the use of the usual blind-flying instruments.



#### Pulled Out by the Roots

THERE is no danger of a second growth when trees, up to nine inches in diameter, are pulled up by this one-man machine developed by San Antonio's Institute of Inventive Research. It is hydraulically operated by power taken from any tractor developing 26 hp. at the belt. As shown above, powerful jaws dig in and grip the roots. Then two lifting cylinders, each exerting 20,000 pounds of pressure, complete the big extraction.



#### Jeep Delivers Torpedoes

CRADLING a pair of torpedoes at its sides, this little car resembles some futuristic rocket vehicle. The "torpedo jeep" serves to trundle the missiles between the torpedo repair shop of the Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn., and submarines moored at the dock. For practice use, standard 20%-foot-long torpedoes are fitted with dummy heads of the same weight as explosive war heads.

## How Linemen Handle Hot Wires And Stay Alive

It takes years to train a high-tension man to work with death only an elbow away—and keep it there.

By George H. Waltz, Jr.
PS photos by Hubert Luckett

THE summer's first big electrical storm had hit. Lightning, wind, and falling trees knocked out a power line. A third of the town was plunged into darkness—including the hospital. When its superintendent frantically called the power company, he was told: "You'll have electricity within half an hour." Just 22 minutes later the lights flashed on.

Emergencies like this break suddenly upon thousands of communities every year. But in spite of hurricanes, ice storms, blizzards, floods, and direct hits by thunderbolts, vital electricity is kept flowing across the country with a minimum of interruption.

How do our power companies perform

these high-speed repair miracles?

Part of the answer is two-way radio, special equipment, and trucks that are complete mobile workshops for the line crews. But a bigger part is the skill and versatility of the pole-climbing linemen themselves.

Each lineman who has won his climbing spurs is a mechanic, electrician, woodsman, aerualist, carpenter, gadgeteer, and first aider all in one. I saw all these skills in action when I recently spent a week with an emergency crew of the Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey.

There was a time years ago when linemen were rugged rovers who went wherever there was work. They prided themselves on how fast they could climb a pole and come down



Held only by his safety belt, a veteran lineman

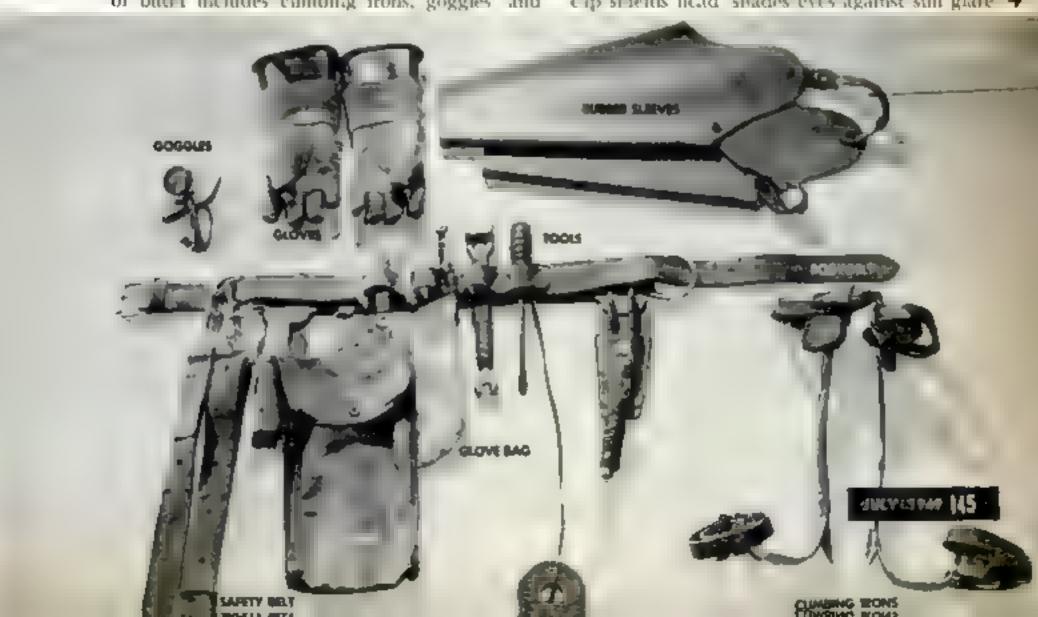
What well-dressed lineman wears is shown below and at right. Hands and arms are completely



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of outfit includes chimbing irons, goggles and cip shields head shades eves against sun glare





Linemen test rubber gloves before each climb by filling them with air, closing the wrists, and squeezing. Any air leaks then show up tiny, pinpoint holes that would be extremely dangerous.

in two or three jumps. They learned to be linemen by experience—and often suffered, sometimes fatally, from lack of experience.

Not so today. In most cases it now takes a lineman longer to win his Grade I spurs than it does a college student to get his degree. After spending three years as a line helper, or "groundhog," he then divides his time for the next two years between the linemen's school and actual work in the field under old-timers. Speed in getting up and down a pole no longer is the lineman's goal. One of the first lessons he learns is that haste not only makes waste but also danger.

Two-way radios in line trucks speed emergency repairs by keeping held crews constantly in touch with central dispatcher who directs trucks, issues orders, and co-ordinates activities of crews.





As linemes climbs up pole, he covers all wires he must pass with long, tubular, slip-on insulators called "line hoses." Where voltage is high, all wires are covered with rubber protectors.

Let's follow the typical career of a young man we'll call John Chure. When John graduated from his New Jersey high school, he heard that Public Service was looking for linemen trainees. John had always been handy with tools; but, being an athlete and liking the outdoors, he couldn't quite reconcile himself to a stuffy bench job indoors. Line work seemed like a good way of combining his abilities.

That summer John began as a helper on a line crew. For the next 36 months, he toted, shoveled, wielded an axe, and learned to use a pike—the long, steel-pointed poles used to

New pole holes are quickly dug to right depth by a mechanical auger mounted on the rear of a special truck. A derrick, also mounted on the truck, then lifts the pole and lowers it in place.





Broken power lines are reconnected by a mechanical sphee called a compression connector Hand sphees are seldom used, although all linemen know how to make them. Heavy cable

cupped on wire to right of lineman is mechanical jumper that shunts current around break until it is repaired. Thus permits linemen to work directly on live wires without shutting off power,

maneuver a line pole into place. When it came time for John to go to line school, he had a good ground's-eye picture of the job he hoped to fill.

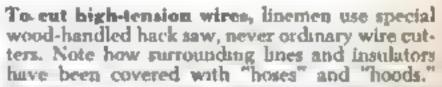
#### Lineman Stakes Life on "Gaffa"

At school, the first thing he learned was that his climbers were his most important pieces of personal equipment. From then on his life would depend on them, He was shown how the metal spurs or gaffs must be kept sharp by filing them to a special three-sided point to match a gauge. His instructor showed him how a poorly sharpened gaff

can cut out of a pole and possibly cost him his life. For the first time, he strapped on his "waistline workshop," the body belt that holds a lineman's pliers, skinning knife, wrenches, parts bag, screw driver, folding rule, connectors, a bag for his all-important rubber gloves, and safety belt. By the end of his first school day, John had taken his first timid step up a practice pole in the school's pole yard.

During this early stage, John was a "termite," the name often jokingly given new linemen because of the mounds of chips that pile up around the practice poles.

Picking up small nails would be difficult trick for lineman wearing heavy gloves, so nails are hoisted up to him stuck through rope. When he needs one, he simply pulls it out of the rope









Linemen steady new pole with long, steelpointed "pikes" while hole is filled in. Wires from old pole, removed but still standing, will be transferred to new one when it is firmly in place.



No termite could do a more thorough job of chewing up this practice pole than spurs of student linemen. The pile of chips at base of pole shows why trainees are aptly dubbed "termites."

Learning from the ground up — literally. Students practice on stub poles that are exactly like real ones — except closer to terra firms. Here they perfect their skills and gain confidence.



The tenth day in school found John perched at the top of a 40-foot pole for the first time. He had worked himself there by easy stages, climbing a little higher each day. John admits now that he felt a little scared that first time at pole top, but he wasn't half as upset as one boy who two-thirds of the way up literally froze to the pole with fright. He could move neither up nor down, and his instructor finally had to climb up and bring him down.

An instructor likes to pick a slightly overcast day for this important pole-top test, the kind of day when clouds are scudding across the sky. He then orders each beginner to climb his pole with his back to the oneoming clouds. If a student has the slightest tendency toward dizziness or height fright, one look at the sky will make it blossom out like measles. The clouds, passing over him from back to front, make him feel that he is falling backwards. If he can't shake off the illusion, he is likely to freeze, grabbing the pole with both hands and hanging on. This is the student lineman's first big burdle.

#### John Learns on a "Stub" Pole

For six weeks, John learned his pole work literally from the ground up. Each new problem of construction and wire work he first solved at the top of a "stub" pole just a few feet off the ground. As he became more confident, he proceeded higher and higher to pole top. A lineman not only has to become apt in each of the many jobs he has to perform, but he has to feel at home resting on his climbers and safety belt.

As one veteran lineman put it: "You've got to be relaxed up there. Handling hot wires, you've got to concentrate on the job—not on your legs and spurs. The first couple of months are tough. You're dog-tired before the day is half over. Going up, you dig your spurs in too deep and then have to use extra effort to pull them out. Topside, you stiffen up. You haven't learned yet to relax and lean back on your belt. But you'll get it, and then it'll be easy."

At the end of seven weeks of basic training, John left the line school as a Grade II lineman and reported to a line crew for his first real field work. But here again he progressed by easy stages, His pole work was limited either to working alone on low-voltage lines that were dead, or working with another qualified Grade II lineman on low-voltage hies that were alive.

For the next year and a half, John shuttled

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back and forth between the school and the field, learning more at each stage. At the end, handling high-tension wires was relatively safe and easy at just about any height. He was a Grade I lineman.

Safety becomes second nature to a well-trained lineman. From the time he was a groundman he has worked with a hat on and his shirt sleeves rolled down even in the hottest weather. Rolled-up sleeves may be more comfortable on a sizzling summer day, but unabsorbed perspiration on bare arms can cause deadly current leakages around a lineman's gloves and rubber sleeves.

He knows the danger of finger rings, watches, fasteners, and key rings. Any piece of metal, even a metal button on his cap, can help to form an accidental spot contact for high-voltage current. Before he climbs a pole, he tests his rubber gloves for dangerous leaks. He fills them with air and holds them closed by folding and rolling down the wrists to make sure they hold the air and have no pin-point holes. Then he pulls leather protecting gloves over the rubber gloves. If he is going to work around high-voltage wires, he puts on his rubber sleeves.

As he climbs toward pole top, he covers all nearby wires with rubber blankets and slip-on insulators called "line hoses" and "insulator hoods." "Covering up," as the linemen call it, is the first step on every job. Often a lineman will spend half an hour "covering up" to make a repair that takes less than five minutes!

#### Even "Dead" Wires Can Kill

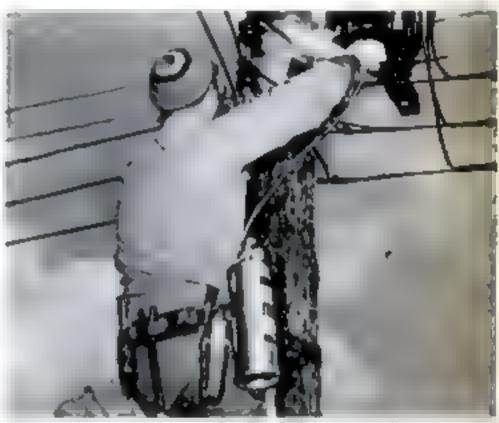
He has learned to regard any wire, "dead" or "alive," with the utmost respect. He knows that under certain conditions even a "dead" wire can give him a fatal jolt. A long, unconnected wire stretching for many miles, particularly at the high altitudes encountered when stringing power lines over mountains, can develop a charge of static electricity heavy enough to kill a man.

Ask the average lineman what he does with his spare time and you'll probably find that his yen for using his hands and building things doesn't stop when he puts away his climbers at the end of a day. The chances are he'll tell you he spends a good many of his evenings either in his home workshop or doing odd jobs around the house—something different like rewiring a living-room lamp or fixing the vacuum cleaner. He'll tell you, too, that he handles 110 volts with as much respect as any high-tension line.

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Lineman's life depends on his climbing from. To prevent them from cutting out, they must be kept filed to special three-sided point. Here metal gauge is used to check accuracy of shape.



Linemen must leave to be fire fighters, too. Here one battles a hard-to-reach, pole-top fire with an extenguisher containing a special mixture of carbon dioxide and carbon tetrachloride.

In case of accidents, linemen must be able to apply artificial respiration — even at pole top. Mastery of prone method is aided by scales and timer to show the proper pressure and timing



### Mechanical Milker Traps Bacteria

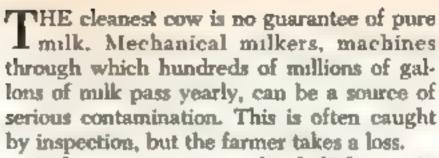
Milk can easily be contaminated at the source. This new machine guarantees a pure flow from the cow to the pail.

By Herbert Johansen



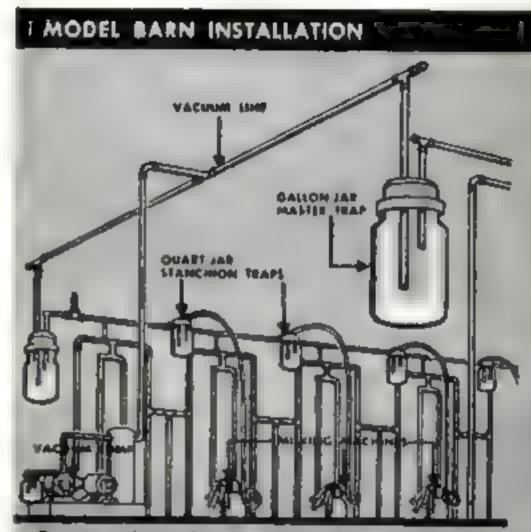
Placid expression on bossy's face seems to bear out the inventor's claim that the new safe millions machine is pleasing to the cow as well as being efficient and more sanitary than old-type milkers.

Close-up below shows one of the gallon-jar bacteria traps placed at end of each stanchion-line section. Contaminated liquid caught in it cannot flow back into pipe line and get to milk pail



And, contrary to popular belief, certain types of bacteria, especially dangerous to infants, are not killed by pasteurization.

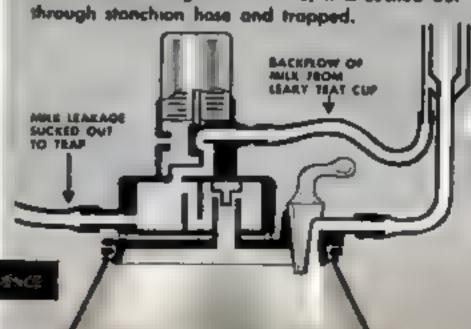
Aware of this danger, New York City's Health Department called for a "safe" milking machine. The challenge was met by Kurt Schneider, engineering chief of American Separator, Inc., Bainbridge, N. Y., whose foolproof mechanical milker is shown here.

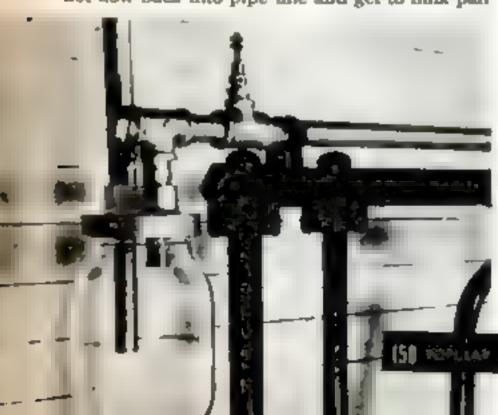


Drawing above shows vacuum pump, pipe line, traps, and milking machines in individual stalls. Quart Moson jars, attached to each stanchion, trap bacteria before they reach vacuum line.



Milk leaking from the teat cup is withdrawn through the pulsation have. Instead of collecting, and contaminating the machine, it is sucked out through stanchion have and trapped.





The No. 1 danger point has been in the vacuum lines supplying the pulsating power that gives the milking machine the massage action of hand milking. Milk or foreign substances drawn into the lines quickly decompose, and bacteria multiply rapidly. This highly poisonous matter is frequently sucked back into the milk pail due to pressure differentials in the vacuum line.

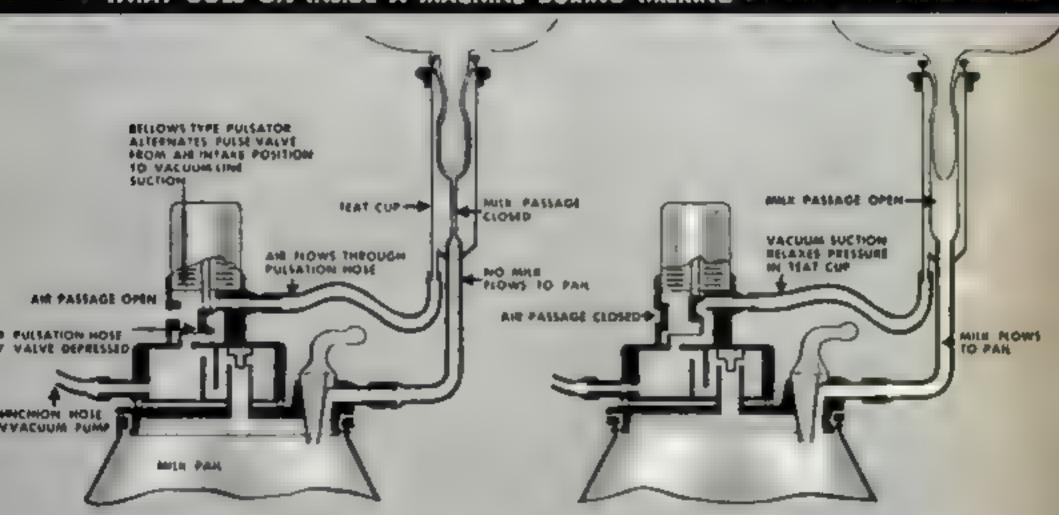
A series of protective traps—quart Mason pars—along the vacuum line have proved effective in stopping this backflow. In a recent test, conducted after a single milking, milk in a pail showed a low bacteria count of 20,000 per cubic centimeter. Material caught

in just one of the jar traps, however, showed a count of 558,000,000 bacteria per c.c. If this had reached the pail, the bacteria count of the milk would have tripled.

The milking unit itself is another source of contamination. Cleaning the pulsator has always been a problem. In the new machine, this has been solved by using a new bellows-type pulsator that is completely isolated from other working parts.

According to Schneider, the new design plus the traps make it impossible for any milk to get into the pail from either the vacuum line or working parts of the machine. The pail gets only what the cow gives,

#### WHAT GOES ON INSIDE A MACHINE DURING MILKING

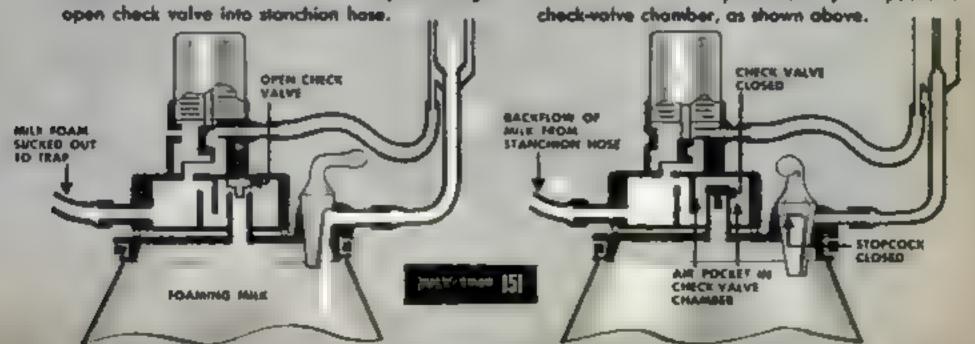


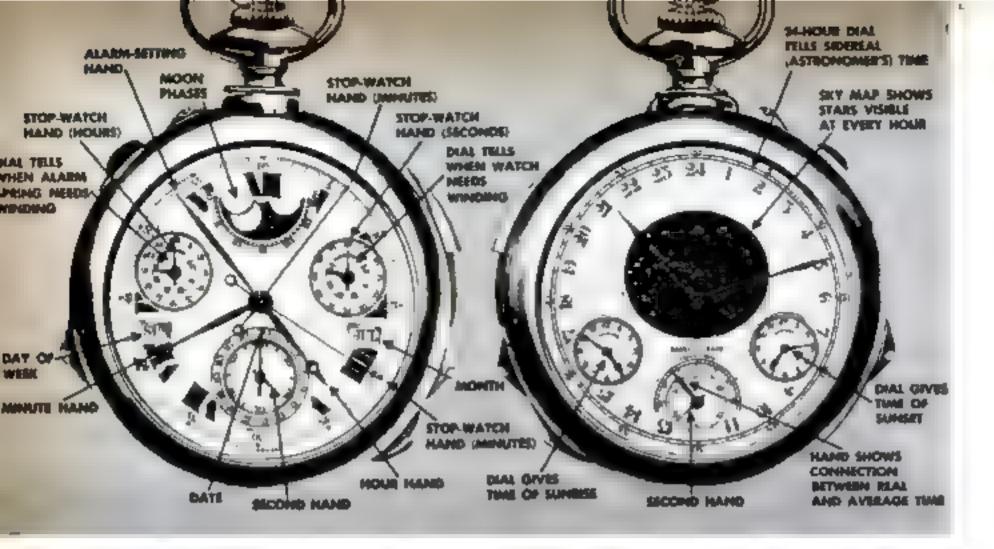
During pressure phase, air admitted through pultation hase squeezes shut teat-cup milk gasage. During relaxation phase, vocuum withdraws alr from teat cup, opening passage for milk flow.

#### THE NEW MACHINE PREVENTS CONTAMINATION?

Another source of possible contamination is fooming milk within the pail that might lodge in the machine. Here is shown how it escapes through open check valve into stanchion hase.

When machine is shut off, there is danger of backflow from stanchion have reaching pail through check valve. This is prevented by air packet in check-valve chamber, as shown above.





#### Two-Faced, \$30,000 Watch Most Complicated in World

hour of the night.

THE world's most complicated watch now rests in the pocket of some rich American—identity a secret. For his \$30,000 he has a watch that tells almost everything about stars, seasons, dates, and time.

This expensive gadget has two faces. One face (above, right) tells sidereal time (astronomer's star time, about four minutes faster than ordinary sun time), and gives the equation linking real time (which varies) to average time. Two other dials mark the moments of sunrise and sunset, while a center

years, leap years, and moon phases. It also chimes hours, quarter-hours, and minutes.

oval shows the constellations visible at every

graph and center second hands, which indi-

cate fifths of a second. It has an alarm clock

and a calendar that shows days, months,

The other side (above, left) has chrono-

Watchmakers in Geneva, Switzerland, required five years to make the timepiece. Only one more complex watch was ever made — and it was stolen in 1942 and is still missing.

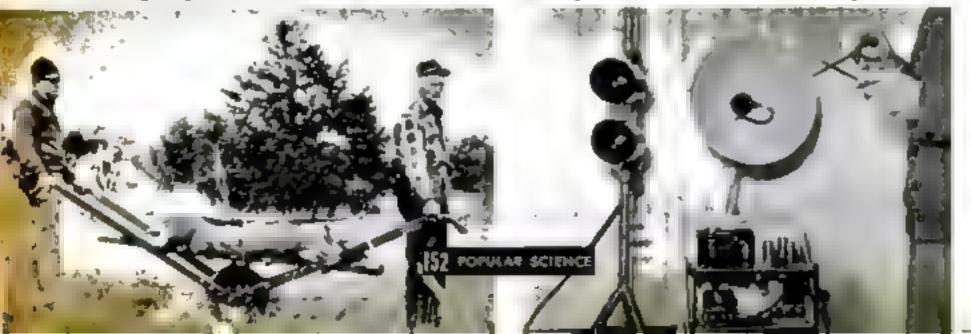
#### Plow-Handle Rig Totes Game

HERE's an idea to ease the burden of those hunters expert and lucky enough to have anything to take back to the car at the end of a day's expedition. The simple carrier below rides over rough country on one pneumatic-tired wheel. It has a bed, 14 in. by 72 in., on a frame made from four plow handles. Four cross braces and two axle braces keep it rigid. For transportation in a car, the carrier can be unbolted and the bed folded in the middle. Walter L. Parker, of Albuquerque, N. M., made it.

#### "Ear" for Siren Stops Care

First engines and ambulances can get a clear path through traffic, thanks to a new device that turns stop lights red for other vehicles. It is an "ear" that listens for sirens. When its microphone picks up a high-pitched wail, relays turn traffic lights red — and they stay red until the siren has gone by. The ear pays no attention to the noise from racing motors.

Invented by Carl Glock, of Los Angeles, the device is shown below being triggered by the squeak of two nails rubbed together.





#### Iguition Locks the Rear Doors

DESIGNED to safeguard children in a moving ear, this lock holds the doors shut as soon as you turn on the ignition. A special switch lets a door be opened with the motor on.

A striker plate on the door is offset in relation to the electromagnetic latch unit, located in the door posts. While the door remains closed, the plate holds back the latch. But if you start to open the door, the energized electromagnet thrusts the latch into the plate. The look is made by Magicon Enterprises, Oakland, Calif.



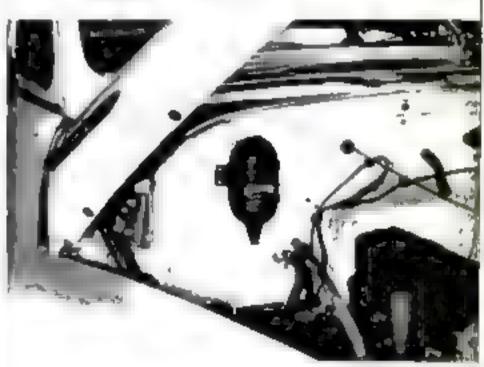
#### Youngsters Sleep as You Drive

Children up to six years old have a comfortable place to sleep and play if you install a Kiddie-Bunk® in the back of your car. Made of heavy duck on a hardwood frame, it sets up like a card table, covering the rear seat and reaching to the back of the front one. Short rear legs fit into a saddle bar that protects the rear cushion. The device folds for storage in the trunk. Koneta Products, Wapokoneta, Ohio, sells it for about \$15.



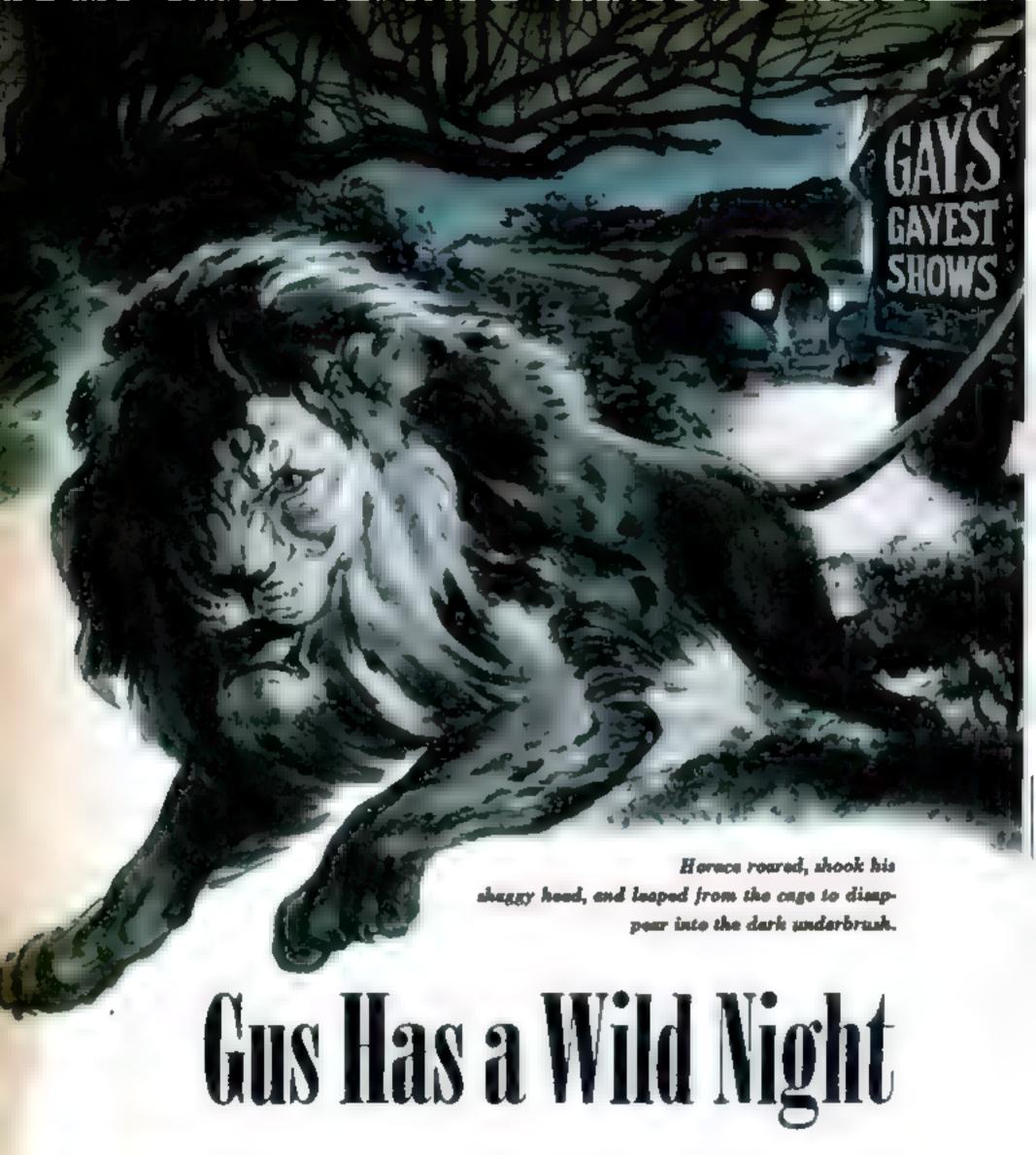
#### Trailer Roof Lifts or Folds

On the road, this trailer looks like a low, streamlined sportsman's model, but when it's parked it can be opened into the house-type unit above. Hinging half the roof allows it to be lifted into the position shown. As the roof is lifted, part of the floor drops down to provide up to 6' 3" headroom over part of the floor area. The Wee Zim<sup>®</sup>, made by Zimmer Boat and Trailer Co., Detroit, has an overall length of 15' 8%" and is 80%" wide. It weighs 2,000 lb., with 180 lb. on the hitch. There is ample sleeping room for four.



#### Fights Under-Hood Fires

MOUNTED on the engine side of the fire-wall, the black, metal-cased extinguisher shown above automatically releases a fire-smothering gas when under-the-hood temperature goes over 255°. A glass grenade containing the fire-fighting fluid is automatically shattered when the trigger temerature is reached. The grenade may also be lifted out for manual use. Red Comet, Inc., Littleton, Colo., sells the device for about \$11.



#### By Martin Bunn

GUS WILSON guided his car along the bumpy dirt road, Beside him dozed Ez Zacharias. It was nearly midnight. They had seen a boxing card in the city, and Gus was driving Ez home. He lives just outside of town, and the side road was a short cut.

High in the summer sky, a big moon coasted along, overtaking a stray wisp of

cloud from time to time. Down in the bottoms, ribbons of mist hung close to the dark earth. The road twisted sharply up a steep grade and Gus drove slowly until he topped the rise. Then he kicked on the brakes.

"Hey, what goes?" he exclaimed. "There's a light in the old Coster house."

"City feller living there," Ez answered, stirring himself fully awake. "I wouldn't."

"Why not?" Gus asked.

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"Because it's haunted, that's why," Ez said flatly. "Been ghosts around there ever since old man Coster chopped his wife's head off near sixty years ago."

Gus laughed.

"All right-laugh," Ez growled, "but I've seen 'em-pale, blue, glowing things."

Gus let in the clutch. As the car moved forward, red lights showed dimly through the mist in the hollow below.

"There's a car parked down there," Gus

pointed out. "I wonder . . . ."

He was cut off by the blast of a horn and glaring headlights as a truck swept up behind them and clattered past down the hill. In a moment a resounding crash sounded from the hollow. Gus coasted his car down the hill and braked behind the truck. He and Ez saw

that it had crashed into the rear of another truck, parked partly off the narrow road.

The body of the one that had been hit was an iron-barred cage occupied by a large and annoyed lion. The other was loaded with canvas and poles. On both trucks were emblazoned the words: Gay's Gayest Shows. Gus recalled that a small carnival had been playing nearby towns.

The two men who climbed down from the trucks seemed neither surprised nor upset by the accident. The driver of the cage truck was a tallish man with a waxed mustache. He wore a faded blue uniform lavishly decorated

with tarnished gold braid. The other driver was a bandy-legged little fellow.

"Thought you'd be coming along, Tom," the uniformed one said mildly. "Something's

busted on my truck. The engine runs but the truck won't move. Thought maybe you could tow me to a garage—and now you've gone and hit my rear end and got old Horace upset."

"Wasn't my fault, Joe," Tom replied.

"Brakes ain't been workin' any too good here lately. Old Gay's too tight to get 'em fixed.

And my emergency just wouldn't hold."

"Ain't much harm done—I guess," Joe said.

"Let's pull 'em apart and see."

#### Horace Takes a Powder

Tom climbed into his truck, shifted into reverse, and stepped on the gas. There was a grinding squeal as the trucks pulled apart, and then the harsh rending of metal. Tom's truck lurched backward, leaving the rear of the cage a tangle of twisted bars.

Horace roared, shook his shaggy head, and leaped from the cage to disappear into the

dark underbrush.

"Horacel" Joe yelled, "Horacel You come back here right now." Joe looked reproachfully at Tom. "Now you've done it."

Gus and Ez had gotten out of the car to look at the crashed trucks. When Horace took off, they edged back toward it.

"Now what?" Gus asked them.

"I dunno," Joe said. "I'm a lion tamer and he's a canvasman. Neither of us knows about fixin' trucks."

"I might be able to help," Gus told them.
"I run a garage in the next town. I'd take a look at your trucks, but I don't like to be standing around with that lion running loose."

"Oh, you don't need to be afraid of Hor-

ace," Joe said. "He's just an old pet."

"I'll stick to standard-size cats," Gus put in.
"Don't worry about Horace," Joe went on.
"Nearly all his teeth fell out long ago."

"Who wants to be gummed by a lion?" Ez

asked.

"He won't bother you," Joe insisted. "Anyway, he won't come back for a half hour. He never does."

"You mean he's escaped before?" Gus asked.

"Sure, lots of times," Joe said.

"Anyway," Tom interrupted, "how about fixin' up these trucks?"

"All right," Gus agreed reluctantly. "I'll have a look."

He got in the cage truck, flipped the ignition key, and stepped on the starter. The engine didn't fire. He tried again, giving it a little choke. Finally the engine caught, but it ran raggedly.

Leaving the engine running, Gus got out



and raised the hood. A faint blue glow danced around the spark-plug wires and terminals.

"Look at that!" Ez exclaimed, jumping back. "Pale blue ghost lights, like I told you.

This whole place is haunted."

"What are you talking about?" Gus snapped. "That's nothing but a corons—electrical leakage of high voltage." He turned to Joe. "You need new spark-plug leads. That's why it's hard to start here in the fog and damp."

Back in the cab, Gus eased the truck into first. But when he let up the clutch, the truck didn't move. He cut the switch and got out.

"it could be any one of several things," Gus said. "Might be the clutch, transmission, universal, drive shaft, or rear end. At any rate, it's a job for a shop. I can check the universal right here." He took the flashlight, walked around to the side of the truck and crawled under it. In a minute he pulled himself out, brushing grass and leaves from his trousers.

"Universal's broken," he told the group.
"Have to put in a new one."

"Old man Gay'll flip his lid about this,"
Joe said.

"And you've got brake trouble?" Gus asked Tom.

"That's right," the man said. "They been gradually getting worse and when I came down this hill here, they just plain wouldn't hold."

#### Pinhole Trouble

Gus slipped into the driver's seat and stepped on the brake pedal. There was no resistance to the pressure of his foot.

"Got a wrench?" he asked Tom as he

climbed from the cab.

Tom rooted around back of the driver's seat and produced an adjustable wrench. Meanwhile Gus had raised the hood. He took the wrench and, while Ez held the light, unscrewed the plug on the brake system's

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master cylinder. Then he peered within.

"No wonder your brakes wouldn't hold," Gus said. "You've lost just about all the fluid in the system."

Gus took the flashlight and inspected the lines and hoses leading to each brake. The two rear ones and the left front brake seemed okay. But when he came to the right front wheel, he noticed a small amount of the missing fluid on the line. Closer inspection revealed a pin-sized hole in the hose through which the fluid had oozed.

"There's a pinhole in that hydraulic line," Gus said. "Have to replace the hose and add

fluid to the system."

"That's funny," Tom said. "When I started out the brakes weren't perfect but they at least worked."

"Nothing funny about that," Gus said. "The leak's so small that it didn't cause your brakes to fail immediately. The leak probably began just about the time you started this trip. Each time you hit the brakes you lost some fluid. By the time you got here and went rolling down that hill, you just didn't have enough fluid to stop the truck."

"Well," said the lion tamer, "we got to get these trucks fixed, but how we gonna get

'em to your shop?"

"My idea," Gus answered, "is for you to catch Horace and then I'll drive you into town. I'll send a tow car out in the morning."

"That won't do," Joe said. "I'm afraid we're gonna be late now. We're due to set up the show in Middletown tomorrow morning. We open at three in the afternoon."

"Can't you go get your tow car now?"

Tom asked.

"That wouldn't save much time," Joe said.
"He'd have to go get the car and then make two trips to get both trucks in."

"This is bad," Tom said. "That canvas on

my truck is part of the main tent."

"That's gonna be a mighty funny-looking show," Ez put in, "with a big chunk of the main tent missing. Plenty of fresh air, though," he added.

"That's one of those things Old Man Gay

won't think is funny," Joe said.

"Ever hear the story of the lame man and the blind man?" Gus grinned. "You two are in pretty much the same situation. Anyway, here's how we'll get your trucks to the shop. Tom's truck has power, but no brakes. Joe's truck has brakes, but no power. Tom tows Joe and Joe's brakes stop both trucks."

"That's what I call real smart," Joe smiled.
"But you're going to have to drive slowly and use a lot of caution," Gus said. "Not that I'd recommend this if it weren't an emergency. You, Joe, will be in the rear. You'll have the brakes but you won't be able to see so well."

"Suppose I sound a long blast on the horn when I need brakes," Tom suggested.

"That's a good idea," Gus agreed.

"And keep the tow line tight," Tom added.
"Especially goin' down hills. I don't want that line to map and let me go."

"Okay," said Gus, "now get going. I'll lead you to the garage. First thing in the morning we'll put two men on the job, and you'll be

rolling by 10:30."

#### Who's Scared?

As the two men busied themselves hooking up the tow line, Gus got into his car and slammed the door. But reaching for the ignition key, he felt hot breath on his face. Turning, he looked squarely into the whiskered, yawning face of Horace, poked into the opposite window.

"Horacel" Joe yelled, "You come here right now." The lion crouched and Joe slipped a

collar on him.

Ez, who had watched the lion's capture from a nearby tree, slid down and slipped into the seat beside Gus.

"Say," he asked, "what's the matter with you?"

"I...I..." Gus began weakly.

"Haw, haw," Ez laughed. "Gus Wilson afraid of a toothless old hon."

"Not as scared as you," Gus retorted. "And I can prove it."

"Yeah? How?"

Gus got out of the car and walked to the tree Ez had climbed. In a minute he was back waving something dark and floppy.

"We'll leave it to the boys around the garage when I show 'em this," Gus chuckled. "Maybe I was scared—but not enough to leave the seat of my pants up a tree." END

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# Solder Smooths Auto-Body

#### By E. F. Lindsley

BUMPING out and refinishing will take care of many simple dents and nicks in the body and fenders of an automobile. But often you will encounter damage that demands filling and shaping with solder, perhaps in addition to straightening.

Unless the damage is extensive, both kinds of repairs can easily be handled by a careful amateur. Tips on the straightening type of job were given in "Bump Em Out Yourself"

(PS, April '48, p. 168).

You must resort to solder in several fairly common situations. Dents inaccessible from the inside are most easily repaired with solder. Also, solder is a "must" when you want to hide weld beads in conspicuous spots, when you are repairing metal stretched too badly to be blended out, or if the metal has been filed so thin in previous repairs that it can't be worked.

But before deciding that solder fits your case, give some consideration to the place where it's to be used. Always try to avoid placing it in large quantities on an extensive flat surface, a fender skirt for instance. Since such parts generally are subjected to considerable flexing and vibration, a thick slab of rigid solder may eventually loosen. Areas with ample curvature to resist vibration are not so critical.

Tools and materials required for a bodysoldering job in your back yard are not particularly extensive. Ordinary bar solder can be used if it has a reasonable tin content.

You'll need a wood paddle to smooth off the solder. Such paddles usually are made of a hard, close-grained wood. To prevent sticking while in use, the wood must be well soaked in paddle oil. This oil is available at an auto-body supply shop. If desired, tallow can be used in place of the oil.

Body putty also may come in handy. Infact, there are times when you may find it possible to take care of some body and fender repairs entirely with this rather than solder.

#### How to Do the Job

To see how an experienced body repairman works, let's tackle an actual soldering job and follow it through step by step. The example chosen, and illustrated in the drawings below, was a very sharp gouge in the upper front surface of a rear fender. This dent was inaccessible from inside and the metal had been stretched to the point where blending would have left a noticeable hump.

Hammer, bumping dolly, and file are used first to restore the general shape of the fender as well as possible. Also, the surrounding lacquered surface must be cut back for a distance of several inches with wet sandpaper to leave a bright, clean working area.



A sharp, deep dent in front part of roor funder is kind of damage moviring solder. For how it is repaired, see drawings attright.



Heated dant is clowned with steel wool dipped in soldering fluid. Paint in that souded off. Short day heates protects finished

والمتحليل والمحابية والمتحمية



Good tinning is assential, A thin tinning cost is first flawed an and then scoured with steel wood to provide an anchor for the solder?



Softened and of solder but is new jubbed into the dent at several points, leaving enough blobe of polder to fill the dent.

Before starting the actual soldering, cut a sheet of ordinary asbestos paper to match the curve of the fender-body juncture. Tape this to the side of the body. Remove the wheel and protect the brake drum and adjoining parts with cardboard to guard against accidental splashing with acid flux and solder.

Once you have begun the soldering process, you should complete the job as rapidly as possible, not allowing the metal to cool between steps. Therefore, it pays to have all necessary materials within easy reach.

A good tinning job is the most vital step in successful body soldering. Haphazard tinning may cause solder to loosen. Using a gas or gasoline torch, apply heat over the entire work area. If the torch has a relatively small and concentrated flame, be sure to move it about constantly to get even heating. When the metal has been well warmed, grip a wad of medium-cut steel wool in a pair of pliers and dip it into a jar of acid-type soldering fluid.

Continuing to apply heat, thoroughly scour the work area with the flux-scaked wool. Repeat this operation until no traces of paint, rust, or welding scale remain.

Still keeping the torch on the work area, hold a bar of solder near the flame so the fender and solder reach soldering temperature about the same time. Smear the fluxed surface with ample solder and then use the

steel wool and pliers to spread it in a smooth, even tinning coat. Dip the wool in the flux as required. Because of the cooling action of the fluid, it will probably be necessary to apply more heat to hold the solder in a liquid state.

Consider the tinning job satisfactory only when the smallest area is completely wetted with solder. Remember this is the foundation upon which you must build.

#### Keep Heat on the Work Area

And don't put down the torch. Keep it directed on the dented area and again heat the bar of solder. This time heat the bar for several inches until it has assumed a mushy condition. Just before the solder is ready to flow, jab the softened end of the bar vigorously into the tinned area at several points, leaving behind ample metal to fill the depression.

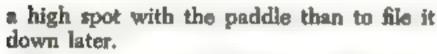
Manipulate the torch as required to keep the solder soft, but be careful to prevent it from melting and flowing eff. At this point, the wood paddle is brought into use.

After the paddle has been covered with oil, use forceful, trowel-like strokes to level the solder lumps to the approximate original contours of the fender. Do not overdo the paddling, but be sure the solder is forced into solid adhesion with all the spots it touches. Remember it is easier to work down





Tools and materials used in a body soldering job include these. A flexible shaft and abrasive disks are convenient but not essential.

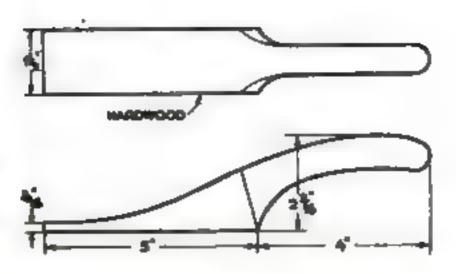


These steps conclude the actual soldering. Before going further, it is best to give the solder plenty of time to cool completely. Use your waiting time to wipe up any acid and spattered solder.

Actual finishing of such a filled area must be done with extreme care. Otherwise, you may leave ridges and flat spots that will stand out in the completed job.

#### Rock the File to Prevent Flat Spots

When roughing down the solder, you can do the quickest job with a flexible shaft and a coarse abrasive disk with a flexible back. But in a home job, where time is no great factor, you can use an ordinary coarse file. Stop occasionally and clean the solder from the file. When you have approached the final contours, switch to a mill-cut file to smooth off any deep file scratches that you have left. Remember to rock the file along the curved surface to avoid leaving any flat spots.



Wood paddle for smoothing down the softened solder can be made to these dimensions. Shape it from hardwood. It must be oiled before use.

Before the area is primed, it must be neutralized to remove any traces of the acid soldering flux. Ordinary baking sode in water will accomplish this. Follow by wiping with the commercial cleansing agent recommended by the manufacturer of the primer you have chosen. This step is important.

From here on, the repair job follows standard refinishing technique. It probably will be best to repaint the entire fender or panel on which you have worked.

Remove the old wax and any oil with a commercial cleanser, sand down to bare metal, clean again, and mask any parts that will be in line with the overspray.

After spraying with primer-surfacer, fill any small imperfections or file marks with body putty. Apply with a scraping action of a stiff piece of cardboard. When the putty is hard, wet-sand the entire area and spray with a finish coat or two.

When the final coat has dried at least a day, go to work with rubbing compound. Follow this with wax.

#### Powdered-Aluminum Paste Fills Dents in Cars



New powdered-aluminum products with a doughlike consistency are now being marketed as a substitute for solder in repairing damaged auto bodies and fenders.

These are applied cold with a spatula or similar tool, as seen at left. As the solvent evaporates, the metal hardens and can be filed or sanded smooth. The material is said to adhere well to a properly cleaned surface and to provide a good base for refinishing. Successive applications will build up thicknesses of as much as an inch. Reynolds Metals Company, Louisville, Ky., aided in developing the products.

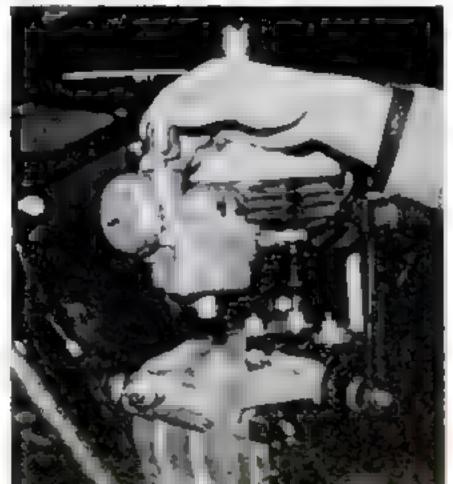


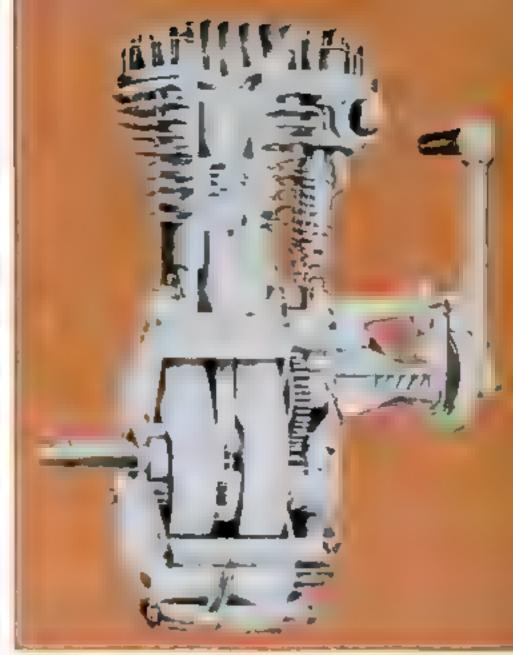
### Frame of Light Motorcycle Carries Oil Supply

WEIGHING just short of 200 lb., this little motorevele introduces several novel features. Foremost is the husky main frame. Made of 2" steel tubing, it doubles as an oil tank of 6-pint capacity. This helps cool the oil and gives the machine a sturdy, clean appearance.

Developed by the Powell Manufacturing Company, Compton, Calif., to sell for about \$250 f.o.b., the machine has a single-cylinder, 8-hp. L-head engine. With a weight-power ratio of 25 lb, per hp., the motorcycle has good acceleration. Top speed is

Curburetoe is designed for quick and positive choking to improve cold starting. Engine uses many standard automobile components.



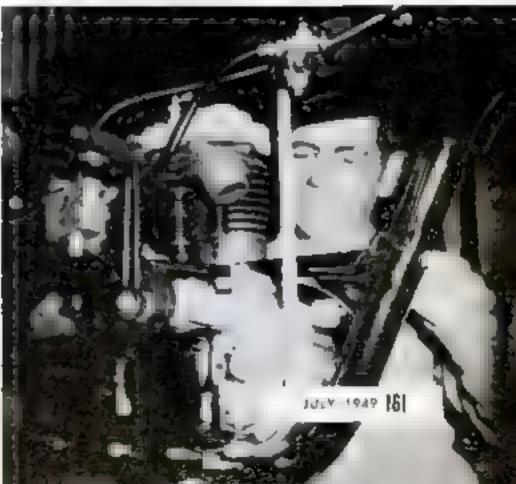


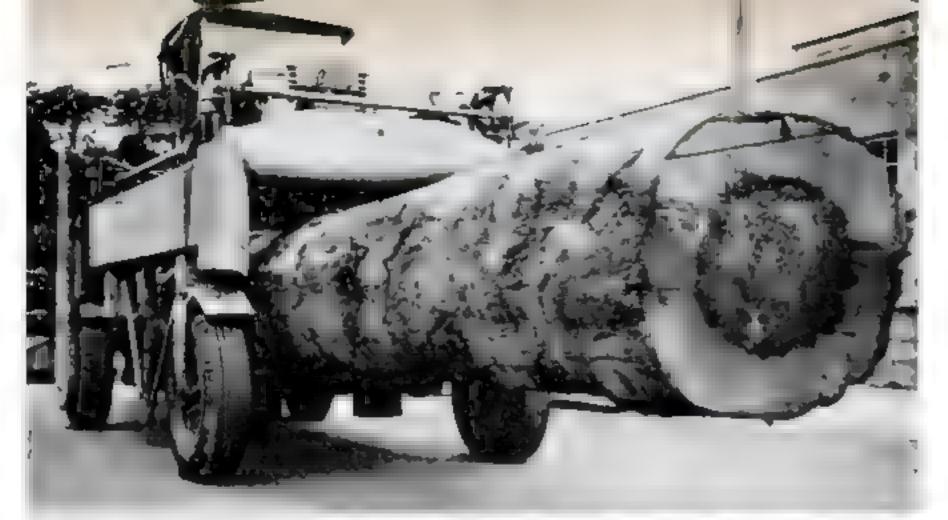
Four-cycle engine has double flywheel and aluquium piston. Kick starter is at right. Machine does 50 miles on a gallon of gasoline.

more than 60 m.p.h., and it does an easy 45 for cruising. It has no gear shift.

The clutch operates automatically. To start, you merely open the throttle. To stop, you close the throttle and apply the internal-expanding brake. There's a telescopic front fork. Wheels are of die-cast alumnum and earry 4 00 by 12 tires. The seat is mounted on a single helical spring. A cam-actuated tightener simplifies chain adjustment.

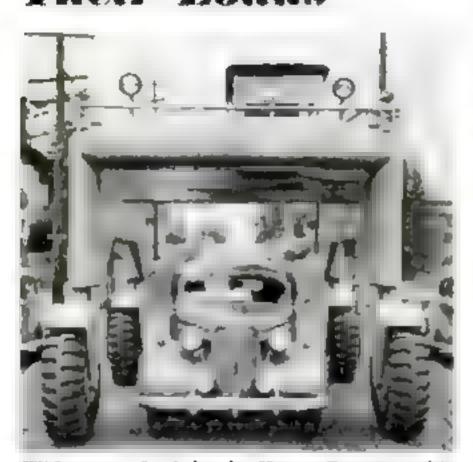
Sturdy construction of the frame and engine is apparent here. Engine has a compression ratio of 5.8-to-1, piston displacement of 24 cu. in.





Hauling a king-sized log is a simple matter. Some straddle trucks handle a 30,000-lb. load.

### Odd-Job Trucks Straddle Their Loads



Widest ever built by the Hyster Company, this truck is 11% across, 13' high, and 16% long.

IF YOU think a truck always carries its burden on its back, take a look at these vehicles. This kind, generally called a straddle truck, tucks the load under its belly and rolls away, either forward or backward, at speeds up to 55 m.p.h.

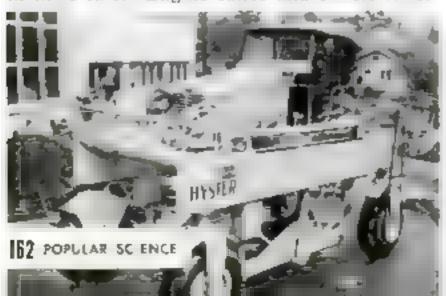
Materials handling around mills, docks, warehouses, and industrial plants is the biggest job done by straddle trucks. Long objects—timbers, girders, pipe, and the like ware their special meat.

Straddle trucks usually are equipped with load-carrying shoes, L-section lengthwise members that support either a carrying platform or the load itself. In some cases, slings are fitted instead of shoes.

All these vehicles travel backward with the same facility that they go forward. Some have four speeds in each direction, others five. Maximum speed varies according to the designed use of the truck.

The vehicles shown here are products of the Hyster Company, Portland, Ore, Firms producing similar trucks include the Ross Carrier Co., Benton Harbor, Mich., and the Gerlinger Carrier Co., Dallas, Ore.

Two L-section shoes underneath carry the load m most cases. Engine raises and lowers slines.

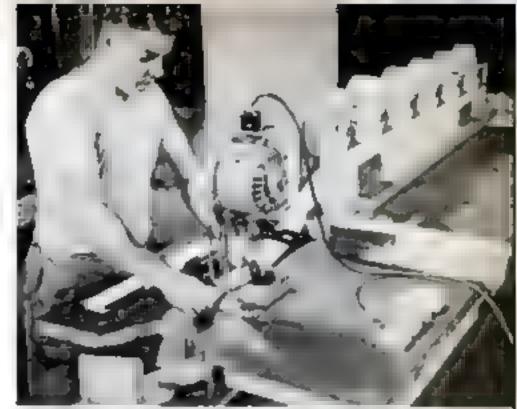


Chains drive rear wheels. Steering gear turns all four wheels, making short turns possible.





Adhesive tape is coated with a layer of tiny shot by this special machine. The tape passes between two rollers, pressing shot in firmly.



Shot-coated tape is cut to 2" lengths, Placed near ends of leaves, balls cut through tape to wor their own races, as in sketch below

### Studebaker Rides on Ball-Bearing Springs



TINY steel balls are now being used to reduce friction between the leaves of the transverse front springs on the Studebaker. Averaging about .026" in diameter, they are actually hardened peeping shot.

Placed only near the tips of the major leaves, the little balls roll a short distance when the springs flex. For convenience in handling and application, the shot are pressed into the sticky surface of an adhesive cotton tape. Through use, the hardened balls wear races for themselves in the spring surfaces.

Accompanying photos show how the inserts are prepared and applied. Shot-coated patches of tape are placed on four leaves of the Champion® springs and on five on the Commander®. Cement keeps the patches in position during assembly.



Tape inserts are comented to the major spring leaves about 5" from tip. Assembled some protected by fabric and metal covers

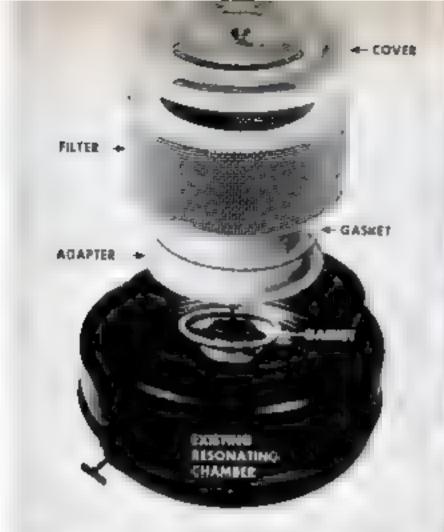
#### Car Scats Become Twin Beds

BUILT to the order of Lowell Thomas, Jr., for a trip through Iran, this station wagon combines the features of a trailer with the power of a four-wheel-drive truck. Thomas and his newscaster father are seen here checking the spare-tire compartment.

Features include bench-type seats that convert into twin beds, a built-in wire recorder, and a fold-down table. Canell Station Wagons, Jersey City, N. J., built the body on a Willys four-wheel-drive chassis.



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ing element, a new material called Framtex®. When dirt clogs the filter, an inexpensive new curtridge is installed, as seen in lower photo.

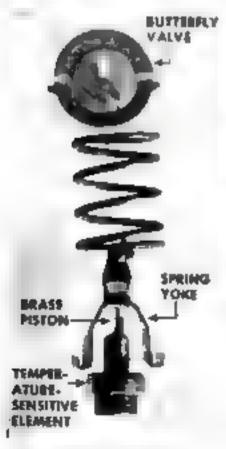
#### Air Cleaner Uses Filter Made of Milk Protein

Surptus milk may soon help keep your automobile engine clean. A carburetor air cleaner announced by the Fram Corporation, Providence, R. I., uses a "curled casein filament." This is a fiber spun from casein, a milk protein, under a new process developed by the Department of Agriculture.

A dry filter, the Fram unit is designed for use inside a standard oil-bath cleaner. The oil is poured out and not replaced. The first installation of the unit costs just under \$3.

Under normal conditions, the filtering element is good for 5,000 miles. When it clogs with dirt, poor engine performance signals the need for a change. (Fram asserts this is an advantage, since conventional filters may not indicate when they are badly clogged.) Replacement cartridges, at about \$1.50, contain a chemically treated element made of 80 percent casein, 20 percent wool.

#### Heat-Sensitive Powder Opens New Thermostat





A copper capsule holds the actuating element. At the set temperature, element expands, forcing up piston and counteracting a 20-lb. spring.

Several makes of new cars are coming through with an unusual kind of cooling-system thermostat. Its temperature-sensitive element is a powder-filled capsule instead of the usual bellows or bi-metallic coil.

Developed by the Dole Valve Company, of Chicago, the new thermostat has a quick, positive action. Below opening temperature, a spring puts a 20-lb, pressure on the butterfly valve, keeping it tightly closed and providing quick warm-up of the engine. At the set temperature, the actuating element expands, counteracting the spring.

Although just breaking into the automotive field, the new Dole DV® has had extensive use in automatic washing machines. It is also offered as a replacement unit for all

makes of cars.

164 POPULAR SCIENCE



Mask for Shallow Diving

Home Repairs with Copper

Midget Gas-Powered Plane

PAGE 186

One-Tube RF Booster

PAGE 192

Self-Timing Contact Printer

PAGE 202





A dense, close-gramed wood is best for this in odern version of a very old kind of nuteracker.



## Wooden Auteracker Works Like a Fise

Tap is nimite by he are tree applying at the left by t

to be loke the worth sity with gage



#### By W. A. Conway

HERE'S a project that can be either a comparatively simple job or a test of your whittling skill. It all depends on whether you employ a screw-cutting lathe or die to form threads on the nut-cracking screwor carve them carefully by hand.

In any case, of course, you'll need a tap for the internal threads. You're all set if you own a tap for a standard 1"-8 V-thread. If not, you can make a tap from a hex-head cap screw and nut as shown in the photo on

the opposite page

Wild thorn-apple wood was used to make the nuteracker shown, but hard maple, burl walnut, or similar woods would be fine. Cut a block 1%" by 3%" by 3%" with the grain at right angles to the screw hole. You can rough out the nut cavity with drills, and then finish with a gouge and sandpaper

After tapping, shape the block by sawing and carving. Lay out the lines of the pine-apple pattern with a pencil. Form the dots

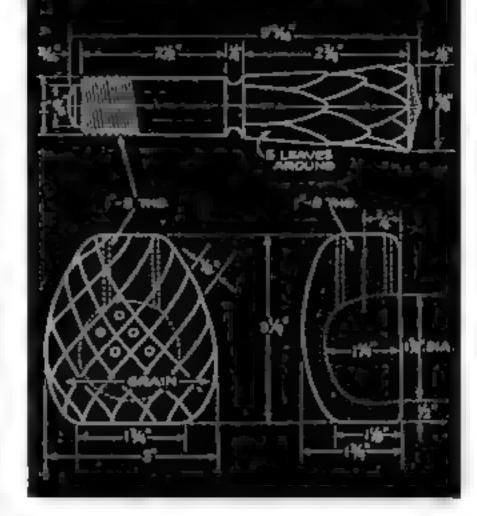
with a knife point or twist drill

A blank for the screw and handle can be whittled from 1%" square stock or turned on a wood lathe. Be sure that the screw portion is straight and exactly 1" dia.

At this point, you can resort to a screwcutting lathe—or perhaps make a die out of the hex nut you've already drilled. But if you like whittling, carving the threads presents a real challenge.

For this, cut strips of tough paper exactly "wide. Blacken one edge with ink. Then cement the end of a strip to the screw blank

Strips of paper X" wide, wound in a tight spiral around blank, provide guide for establishing the thread lead. Mark with sharp knife.



Wind the strip carefully and tightly in a right-hand spiral around the blank with the edges just touching. Repeat until blank is covered.

With a sharp knife, cut into the blank between the paper edges. This will establish the lead of the thread. Whittle out along this line a little at a time. As the thread takes shape, check by fitting it into the tapped body. To find tight spots, you can rub the thread with chalk or soft pencil and observe where smudges occur.

Carve the leaves on the handle in shallow relief. On light-colored woods, the handle can be stained green and the body maple to give a natural pineapple coloring. Otherwise, apply several coats of boiled linseed oil. Then wax well.

Carve the threads by cutting just a little at a time. Check progress by turning into tapped body. Finish up with a small triangular file.





The same mask can be used two ways. In one, a hose from a pump on the surface—either hand-operated, as shown on the opposite page, or motor-driven—supplies the diver with air. In the other, a compressed-air tank is strapped to the diver's back, freeing him of a topside air connection. Both outfits are designed for shallow water. They're practical only for depths to 30 feet

We've found the use of a hose for an air supply more convenient and practical than bottled air. The diver has more freedom of movement without the tank strapped to his back, and he can stay down for longer periods. An air bottle of the size shown, with a 2,000-lb, working pressure, will supply a diver for about 20 manutes.

Besides the gas mask, here are the parts that went into the outfit: Army curtridge belt, oxygen hose, nonreturn (check) valve T adapter, small piece of gasket rubber, and the tools shown in the photo at right

The Army cartridge belt is used to carry lead weights. By adjusting the number of these weights to suit his buoyancy, a diver can attain almost complete freedom of movement. Swim fins worn on the feet speed movement through the water. The nonreturn, or check, valve was inserted between the T adapter and the air hose. Once air has entered the mask, the nonreturn valve prevents it from escaping back into the hose if pressure from the surface should drop.

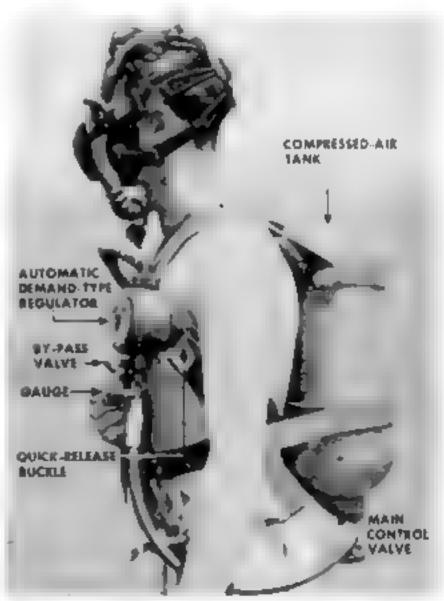
Although the flutter valve on the mask could have been used as an exhaust, it would let the air bubble up in front of the mask, obscuring the diver's vision. For this reason, we removed it and closed the connection for the valve with solder. The air then exhausts around the top edges of the mask, giving the diver unimpeded vision. To make a stronger, more watertight seal, the thin plastic diaphragm was removed from the front of the mask and replaced with gasket rubber.

We generally use a hand pump to supply the diver. However, when we switch to a gasoltne-driven compressor, a regulating valve is inserted between the T adapter and nonreturn valve.

There are three sources of air supply for the converted mask: power-driven compressor, hand pump, and high-pressure bottie. For sports divers, the cost of labor for hand pumping generally is not an important consideration. This is strictly a team sport, and we dive as a group. Two people pump, one tends the life line and air hose, and one dives—rotating until all have dived.



Here are basic materials and tools used in converting surplus Navy gas mask to a diving outfit. The hose that supplies air is not shown.



Alternate conversion uses air tank on diver's back. No surface connection is necessary but hife line to belt is strongly recommended



Is kirst step in conversion was to reposiflutter valve and to close its estimection with solder. Next, the corrugated tubes were cut



between sixth and seventh ridges as shown. The start hoses assure a more rigid connection for I indapter, nonreturn valve, and air less.

Because of this availability of personnel, a hand pump is the most popular air supply. Three pumps suitable for sports diving are the Morse No. 15 (shown in use on page 168), the Morse No. 17, and the Miller Dunn No. 1. Any of these will supply sufficient air for a diver wearing a mask to depths of 25 or 30 feet. These three pumps are available as government surplus for about \$30 or \$35 each

Here are two hints on operating hand

pumps, First, a small tank between pump and diver acts as an air dome, leveling out pulses and giving a more even flow of air. Connect the hose from pump to tank and from tank to diver. Second, use the full stroke of the pump

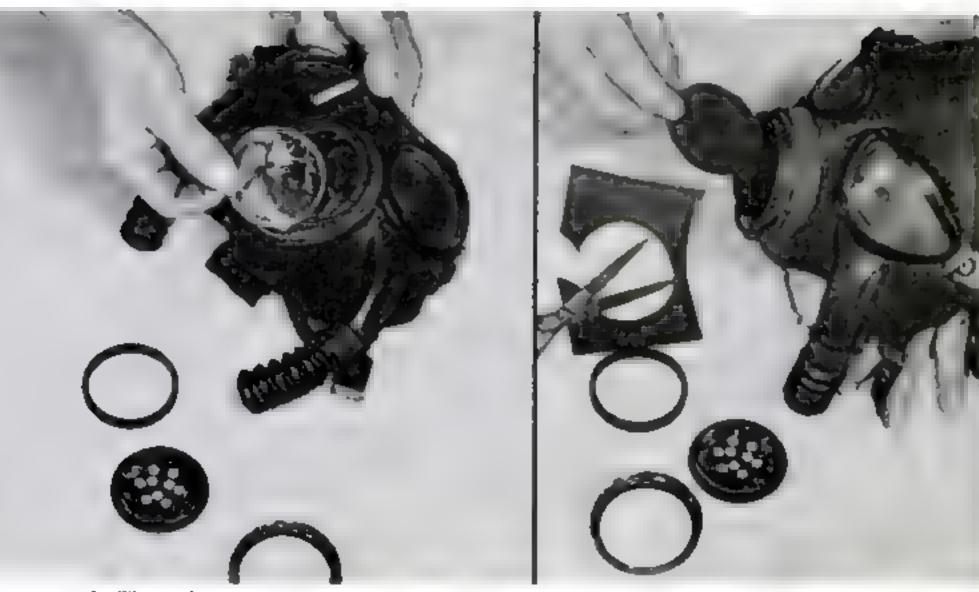
Gasoline-driven compressors suitable for shallow diving are also available but are much more expensive. Electric-driven compressors are not recommended for use around water.



3. Diaphragm, ring, metal disk, and diaphragm retainer then were reassembled and unit screwed in place. Next, the ends of the T adap-



ter were inserted in the corrugated tubes. They were forced well up into the tubes and secured as shown in the photograph at the right



2. Thin plastic diaphragm was removed by unscrewing diaphragm retainer and removing metal disk and ring. Circle of gasket rubber was

cut to fit diaphragm receptacle exactly. This replacement makes for a stronger and much none watertight seal at front of mask.

A diver using the mask should have about 1.5 cu. ft. of air per munute, delivered at a pressure slightly above the pressure existing at the depth where he is. As most diving will be in water 15 to 30 feet deep, a diverneeds about 3 cu. ft. of air a munute.

It's desirable to have a gauge at the pump or tank. The pump should be worked fast enough to provide about 5 lb. more pressure than the diver actually needs at any particular depth. In salt water, depth times .445 equals the pressure needed. In fresh water, depth times .435 gives the required pressure. For example, if a diver is at 25 feet in salt water, 25 times .445 equals 11 lb. Add the 5-lb. extra margin to that and you have 16 lb., the gauge pressure the pump should maintain for a diver at 25 feet.

In building our second outfit—the one with the air bottle—the nonreturn valve was replaced with an automatic demand-type regulator. This permits air to enter the mask



4. Tubes were weapped with two turns of friction tape and wired. Tape prevents were from cutting tubes. Third turn of tape covers wire



to give smooth surface. Final step was to screw nonreturn valve into T adapter and connect air hose to nonreturn valve.

only when the diver inhales, greatly conserving the air supply. You'll notice in a photo on page 169 that we inserted an air gauge and bypass valve between the tank and regulator. The gauge, of course, shows the amount of air—in terms of pressure—remaining in the tank. Normally closed, the bypass valve is a safety measure. If the regulator should fail, the bypass valve can be opened slightly to allow a flow of air to the diver. High-pressure hose is used.

Note in the photo that the regulator was placed at almost the same level as the air inlet to the mask. If it were much lower, the greater water pressure there would allow a continuous flow of air to the mask.

Quick-release buckles were used on the harness supporting the air tank. There are three of these, one at each side and one on the belt. If the diver should get into trouble, he merely has to flip these three buckles, slip the mask from his head, and swim to the surface. A life line, attached to the harness rather than to the diver himself (for speed in emergency escapes), is used even with the self-contained unit. With the other one, the line is taped at frequent intervals to the hose.

We have used these units in exploring the marine, gardens at Catalina Island and for underwater photography. When we are diving, our boat becomes the center of attraction. Visitors usually want to try their hand at submarine exploration. Those who demonstrate that they are expert swimmers

dive, first with one of us, and then alone.

It's a good idea for the diver and his topside companions to arrange a system of signals. Tugs on the line usually are used Here's the code Navy divers use:

#### FROM TOPSIDE TO DIVER

	T 71-0	
1	paill	Are you okay?
2	pulk	Go down.
3	pulls	Stand by to come up.
- 4	pulls	Come up

#### FROM DIVER TO TOPSIDE

	patl]	I am okay.
2	partition	Give me slack
	pulls	Take up my stack.
4	pulls	Haul me up.

The unit using the high-pressure bottle was built for about \$60. Cost of the other outfit was somewhat less since we didn't need a tank, gauge, regulator, or harness.

By following a few rules, we find that even inexperienced divers (including an 11year-old boy and a 65-year-old woman) can use these outfits with complete safety. An important point about which we always caution novices is to breathe normally while ascending. And, if the mask is accidentally pulled from the face, to exhale while ascending. A diver shouldn't hold his breath while rising because air taken into the lungs under pressure would expand with reduced water pressure. This might cause air embolism or rupture of the lungs. However, this danger wouldn't be great unless the diver had his lungs completely filled with air when he started up. We also always avoid tricky tidal currents,

#### Musical-Note Shelves Cut from Colored Plastic

Cut in pairs from colored plastic, these musical-note knickknack shelves are an easy project for a single evening. Choose plastic to suit the color scheme of the room in which the shelves will hang.

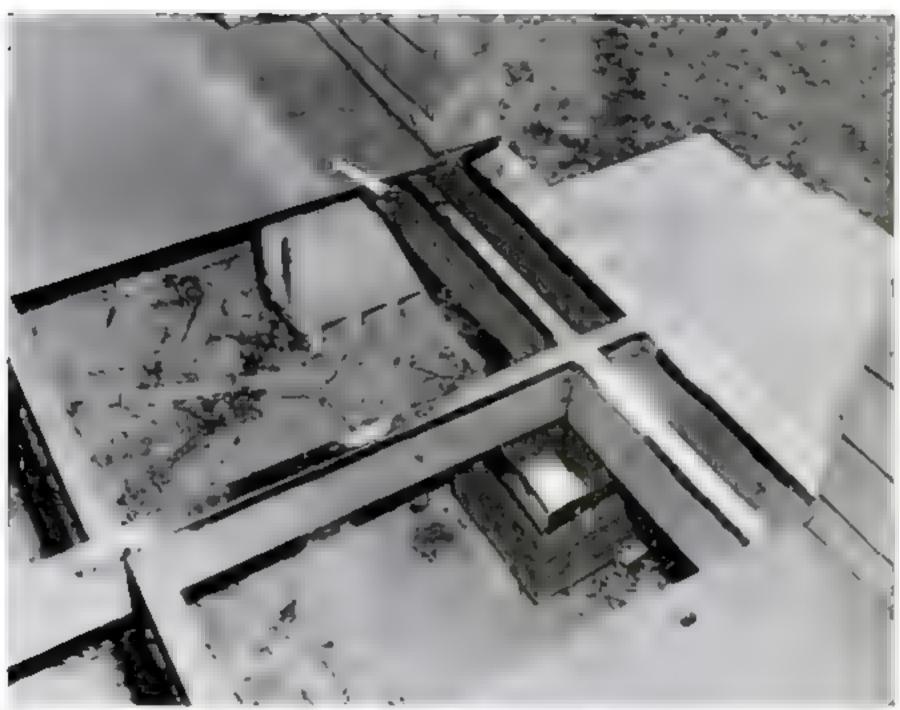
The shelves shown below were made from

" sheet plastic. For the job, you need only a jigsaw, files, and emery paper.

Following the squared drawing, lay out each part on the protective paper of the plastic. Saw along these lines with the paper still in place. Finish with a file and smooth

> the edges with emery paper to give a frosted appearance. If equipment is available, a groove cut for the shelf piece will strengthen the joint. Cement with glacial acetic acid or ethylene dichloride. A nail through a small hole drilled in the top of the note suspends the shelf .- J, Jachim-Washington, owicz. D C.





Copper protects floor tunbers of open porches from seeping rain water. Note sheet copper cap

on brick pier. This keeps water from working its way down into the mortar and loosening it.

## Home Repairs You Can Make With Copper

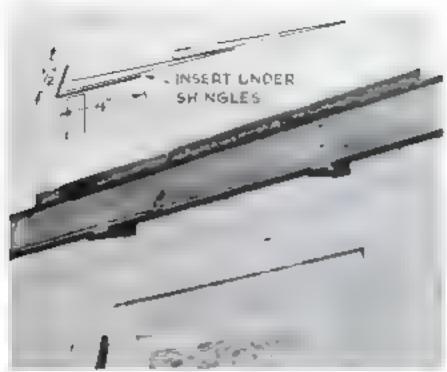
By Harold R. Terpeny

FOR lots of handyman repairs, sheet metal will do a better job than any other material. Perhaps the best all-around repair metal is sheet copper. It's easily worked because of its softness, and it'll never rust.

Suitable sheet copper can be bought from roofing supply dealers and many hardware stores. A convenient kit of 10 hight-gauge 18" by 48" copper sheets is packaged by Revere Copper and Brass, Inc. Also included in the kit are 200 bronze nails and instructions for flashing roof valleys, chimneys, doors, and windows.

You can save yourself work and money by covering the floor timbers of an open porch with copper. Rain is a deadly enemy of porch timbers and replacing them can be a costly job. Either when building or repairing porches, cut strips of copper 1" wider than the thickness of the timbers. These usually are 2" stock. Bend the strips into Ushaped caps and lay them atop the timbers with the ends butted together. Smear the timber first with a heavy coat of roofing cement and press the copper on top of it. Be sure to use roofing cement, not roof coating. When the flooring is nailed down, the cement seals the nail holes in the copper. You now have a water-protected underpinning for your porch,

Many porches are supported by brick columns. Rain blows in, runs down between



Gutterless buildings drip water over doorways. Strip of copper, bent as shown and inserted under shingles, guides water to either side.



Copper covers holes made by birds or squirrels. Patch is not nailed but set in roofing cement. Here it's being tapped into place.

the floor boards, and eventually weakens the mortar between the bricks. The mortar begins to crumble and the top few courses of bricks become loose, leaving an insecure pier. When repointing old piers, cut a sheet of copper to cover the top. Make it 2" wider all around than the top of the pier. Then jack up the timber a trifle and ship the sheet in place. Bend the sides down around the top of the pier. New piers should be capped before the timbers are laid.

A copper cap on a chimney top also is a good investment. The top courses of bricks eventually become loosened as rain works its way down into the mortar. Drawings and photos on page 176 show you the construction of a chimney cap. After bending the four sections of the cap, lay the short pieces on the bench, fit the long pieces, and solder the joints. To hold the cap in place, spread roofing cement on the chimney top and press on the cap.

Holes in the outside trim of a house may be patched with copper. Sometimes a bird or squirrel will make an entrance into the eaves by using a small hole or crack as a starting point. Cut a piece of copper to overlap the hole by about 4" on all sides, if possible. Place the copper over the hole and mark around it with a pencil. Apply a coat of roofing cement around the hole, keeping a little inside the pencil line. Before sticking the copper in place, wash it thoroughly in vinegar so it will take paint. Vinegar removes traces of oil or grease on the copper. Then press the plate into the cement. Use kerosene to wash off any cement that may be squeezed out around the patch. Touch up the job with paint,

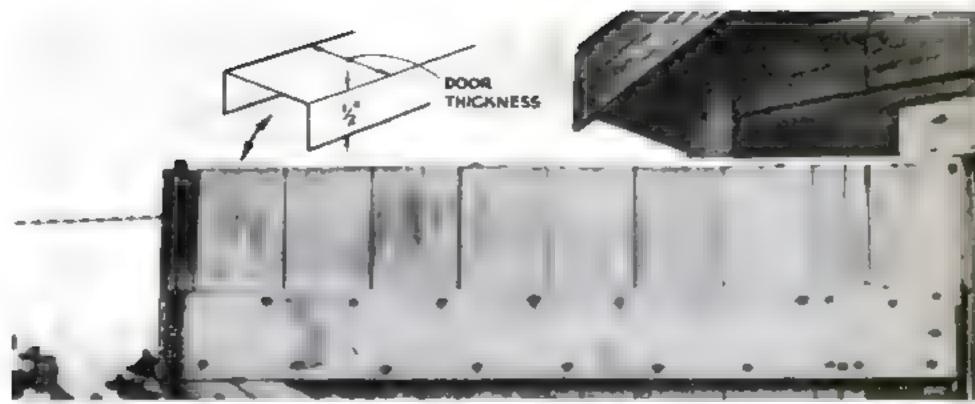
Copper patches are especially good if a



Posts last much longer if tops are protected from rain, which otherwise seeps into end grun.



Right, tabs are bent down around post tip. Bronze nails driven through tabs hold cap on.



Garage doors, because they frequently stand open, are subject to rot from water along the

top edges. Copper caps keep water out. Apply the cap with roofing cement and bronze nails.

hole covers molding as well as a flat piece of trim. The copper can be bent to fit the contours of the molding.

Cellar doors frequently let rain in, either at the juncture of bulkhead and wall, or at the door line. The photo at the bottom of this page shows one solution. If possible the flashing should be inserted when the wall shingles are installed, but you may be able to loosen them enough to get it up underneath. Instead of the curved wooden strip to carry off water, the %" section of the copper sheet could be made about 3" wide and bent up at an angle along the lower edge.

Tops of garage doors take a beating from the weather. Since at least part of the tops are end grain, they don't take paint very well and are prone to rot. A tight-fitting cap of copper will protect them.

Posts will last years longer if the tops are

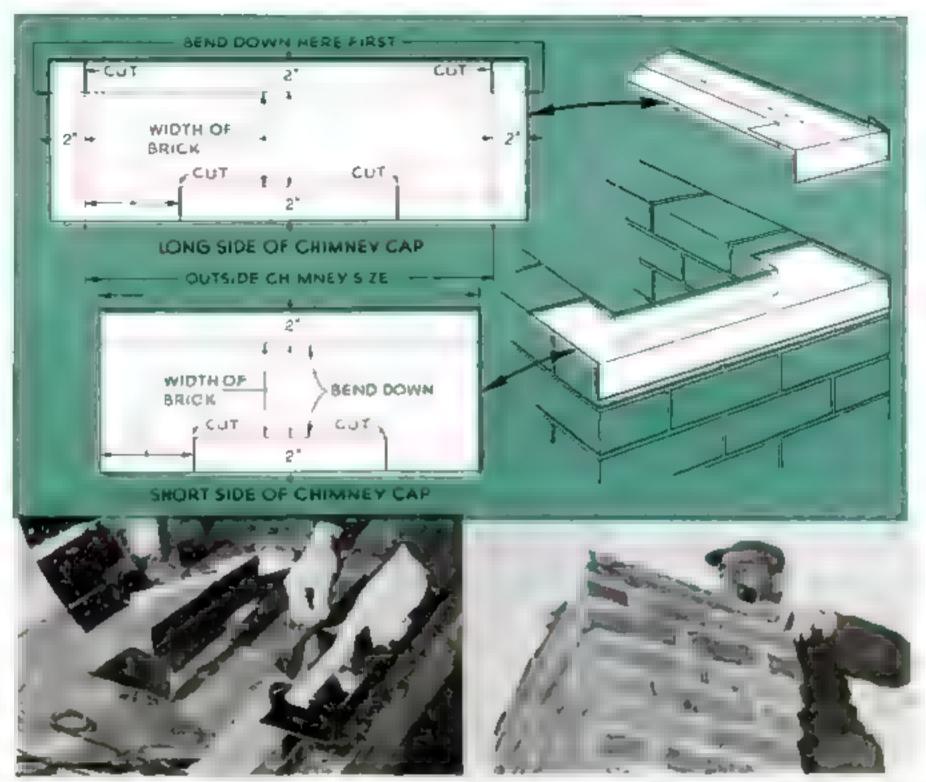


Holes in woodwork gnawed by mice or rats can be permanently and securely scaled with patches of sheet copper. Nail in place.



Leaks in cellar hatchways can be stopped by a flashing bent up of copper. Strip is best fitted

under shingles or clapboard when these are renewed. Curved batten drains the water away



Cape for chimneys are bent up in four sections. Drawing shows where to make bends and cuts. The four sections are litted and

soldered together and then placed on the chimney. Top bricks of unprotected chumneys frequently work loose as rain weakens mortar.

protected from the weather. To make a post cap, measure the diameter of the top and scribe a circle K" larger on a piece of copper. Using the same center, draw a second circle 2" larger than the first circle. With tin snips, cut slits in from the circumference of the outer circle to the circumference of the inner

Termite shield. Edges are bent down to 45° angle (which termites can't negotiate) on underside of sheet. Sills hold guards.

circle. Place the cuts about 1" apart. Put the cap atop the post and bend down the tabs. Drive a bronze nail into every third or fourth tab and you have a watertight cover that'll prevent rain from soaking in.

Termite shields are another valuable use for sheet copper. Install the shields on top of brick or concrete foundations. Cut the copper 1" wider all around than the top of the foundation. That leaves %" on all sides Bend these %" extensions down 45°. Termites can't crawl on the bend in the underside of the copper. To install the shield, lay it on the foundation and set the sill on top of it.

Sheet copper—if it goes well with the color scheme of your kitchen—makes nice drain-board covers and splash boards. Decorative effects include hammering, chemically darkening, and patterning with steel wool Another use is as a drip pan for an oil heater. Turn up the sides of the pan about "and solder the joints.

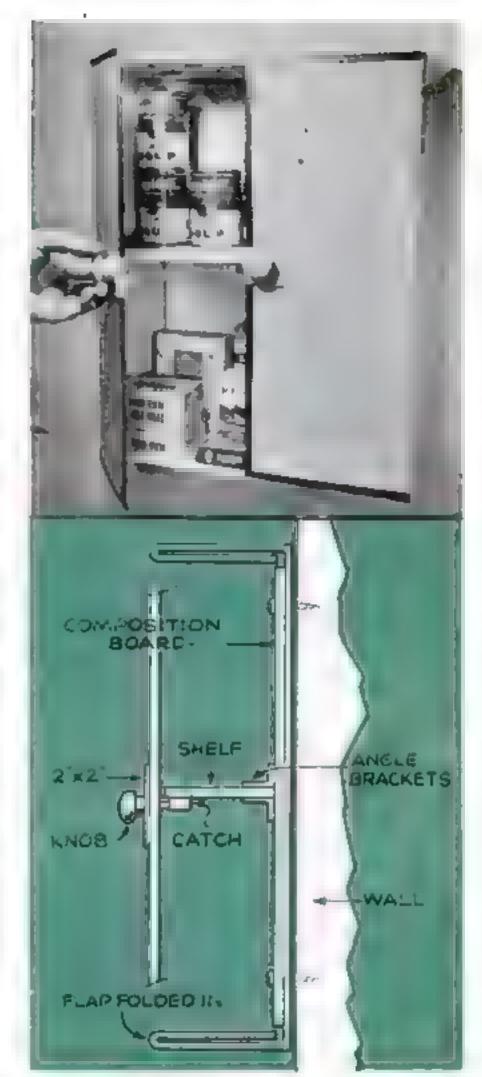
### Grocery Carton Becomes a Cabinet

THE humble corrugated carton that you can pick up at the corner grocery has the makings of a surprisingly sturdy utility cabinet. Especially handy in crowded or temporary quarters—you can throw it away without compunction when you move—it will also serve in the kitchen, porch, basement, garage, or summer cabin. It costs nothing or close to it and, when coated with a high-gloss enamel, looks quite shipshape

In addition to the carton itself you will need a sheet of %" or %" composition board to reinforce the back. To this one or two shelves are attached with angle brackets. The back stiffens the carton, permits easy mounting, and carries most of the load

Cement or glue the back flaps closed and fold in and glue the short flaps in front. The longer front flaps are used as doors. After placing the back panel and shelf or shelves in position, drive a couple of nails through the eardboard sides into the shelf ends. Cabinet knobs mounted on 2" by 2" plywood squares are fastened with screws from inside. Cabinet catches are attached to the knob-mounting squares and the underside of the shelf

Paint the cabinet inside and out with an enamel undercoater. When dry, steel-wool every part smooth and apply a high-gloss enamel. Edges are trimmed with decorative cloth tape, which can also be used to reinforce the door "hinges."—Arthur C. Miller, Manhattan, N. Y.





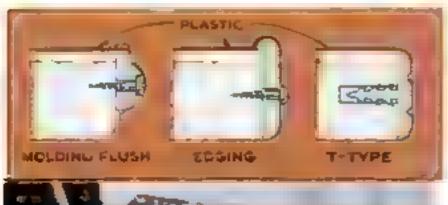
Back flaps, if not already secured, should be gued or cemented together (left). In front, the short flaps are folded in and glued, while the long ones become doors. A shelf (center)

is attached to a composition board back panel that stiffens the carton and holds much of the load. Exposed edges of the cardboard are covered (right) with decorative cloth tape.

Aluminum edging and a plastic top transformed this small folding table into an attractive piece of furniture. Flush molding was used.



Guided by atrips of adhesive tupe, hucksaw blade cuts hard-pressed, laminated sheet plastic. Rough edges can be dressed smooth with a file.





Fastening molding around table top. Thickness of this edging required untered corner joints. Drawings show three types of molding.

### How to Put Plastic Tops on Tables

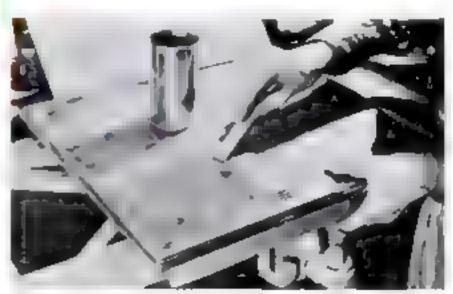
MODERNIZING old table tops is a snap with thin sheet plastic and either metal or plastic molding. Besides the covering material and edging, you need only a couple of simple tools to trim the plastic to size.

Use a hard-pressed, laminated sheet plastic—such as Micarta®, Formica® or Polatex®. This is the type widely used to cover tables and counters in lunchrooms. It has a high resistance to scuffing and scratching and is not harmed by most things that come in contact with table tops.

While you have a choice of molding styles, try to obtain the hpped type. It extends over the plastic top for a fraction of an inch and will help hold down the edges of the sheet. The molding on the table pictured at the top of this page wasn't this kind, but was a rather thick beaded strip. I mitered the corners because of the thickness of this molding. However, thinner metal can be bent around corners, particularly if they are rounded a trifle

Flush-type molding can be installed before the plastic. Lipped molding should be fastened in place after the plastic has been applied but before the adhesive between plastic and table top has set. Of course, the bare table top should be flat and sanded smooth.

The plastic can be cut with a hacksaw and the edges smoothed with a rasp or file.



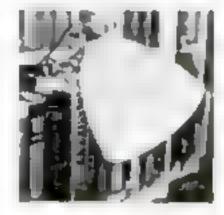
Glue is spread with paddle. Shallow notches in end of paddle leave glue in ridges that flow into uniform film when plastic is applied.

A block plane will cut down the edges faster than a file, but you'll have to resharpen the blade frequently. It's desirable to use metal-working tools because plastic tends to dull woodworking edges.

Anchor the plastic with casem, resorcinol, or phenohe-resin glue. Spread it smoothly over the top and lay the sheet over it. Apply clamps, or place weights on the plastic. Sandbags, concrete blocks, or buckets of sand will do as weights. Be sure the pressure ts evenly distributed over the sheet. Leave the weights or clamps on at least overnight. —Walter E. Burton, Akron, O.

#### Reflector Makes Lamp Shade

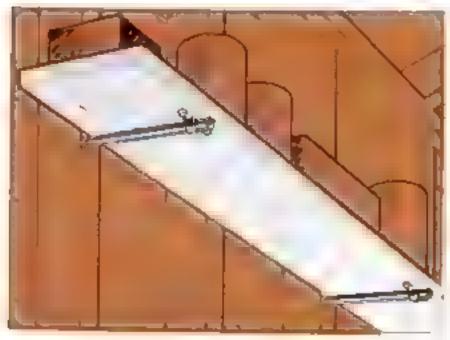
TRANSLUCENT plastic reflectors, intended for use in indirect-lighting lamps, can be made into attractive lamps themselves. Purchase the reflector together with a socket, cord, plug, and either a



gooseneck and base or a spring clamp. You'll find that assembly consists mostly of wiring, since the reflector is already threaded for the socket. Such a lamp provides direct light for reading and a soft light throughout the room.

—Philip L. Cuskley, Boston, Mass.

#### Pipe Supports Shelves

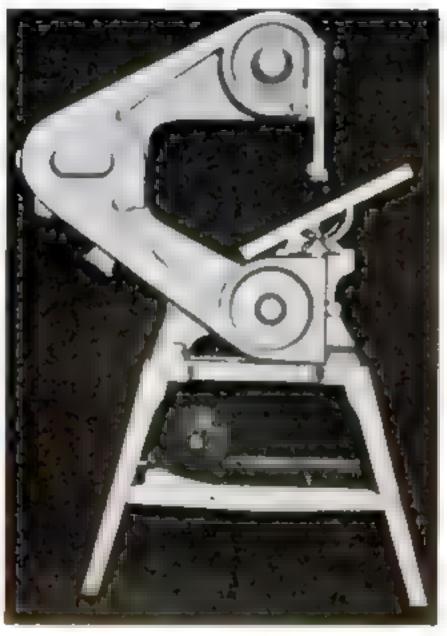


You can save yourself the expense of brackets for heavy shelves in the shop, garage, or attic by substituting pieces of old %" pipe. Cut the pipe to length and bore holes in the studding to take ends of the pipe sections. The shelf may be fastened to the pipe with metal straps, as shown in the drawing. —Victor II, Lamoy, Upper Jay, N. Y.



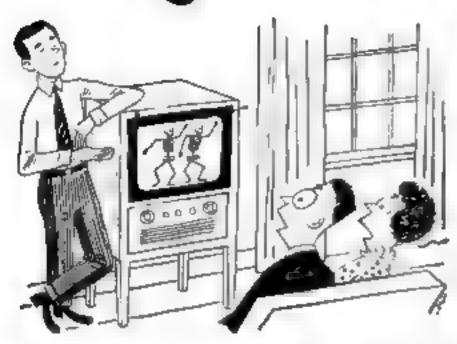
Tight clamping is important even if, as here, you have to use any available assortment of clamps. Weights may be substituted for clamps.

#### Deep-Throat Bandsaw

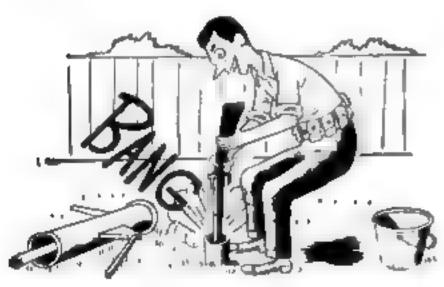


The unusually deep throat—18%" from blade to frame—is a feature of this bands as manufactured by the Owen Pattern & Foundry Co., Norfolk, Va. It's made possible by a third wheel and a triangular blade span. To permit unusually acute angle cutting without reversing the layout, the table may be tilted 30° inward and 45° outward. The skip-tooth, metal-cutting blade, moving at 3,200′ per minute, cuts wood up to 8" thick and metal to 28" thick. Plastics also may be worked on the saw, which operates on a 5 hp, motor. A bench model, less motor, is priced at \$297.

# What's Your Ingenuity Quotient?



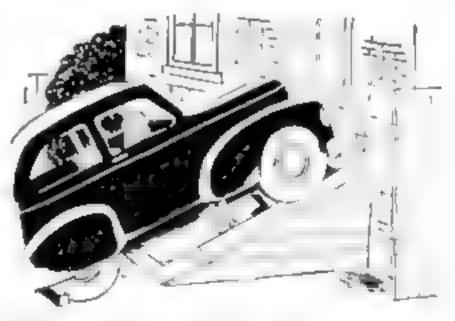
Those two skeletons you see doing a snappy tap routine on my television screen aren't really there. What happened was that our television set had so much glare that even free-loading guests were demanding sunglasses. Since the set already had set me back a nice piece of change, I didn't feel like laying out more dough for a filter. Instead, I bummed a big undeveloped X-ray film from a lab and dunked it in hypo to clear the emulsion. It has a nice blue tint that's fine as a filter.—John H. Wilmes, Chicago.



I wasn't hunting ground squirrels when I fired down the well. The reason was that our fishing-club's water supply ran out when the well mysteriously went dry after years of service. I removed the pump and fired several rounds from a .22 rifle down the 30-foot easing. That blasted holes in the sand packed at the bottom. Now the well gives more water than ever before.—W. J. Kaiser, St. Louis, Mo.



Oil's well that ends well, but for a time I was stumped. The problem was to pump oil out of an underground tank to an elevated one-and I had no pump. Then along came the ice-cream man. He didn't have a pump either, but what he did have turned the trick. I stopped up the vent of the buried tank and plugged its filler opening with a pipe fitting. The pipe inside this ran from near the bottom of the buried tank up to the elevated one. But first we dumped some pieces of dry ice from the ice-cream truck fato the lower tank. As the carbon dioxide was released, it built up pressure that forced the oil up through the pipe.-R. C. Harrington, Kingsport, Tenn.



My car needed work underneath, and I couldn't see myself doing the job flat on my back. I took the doors off the concrete-block bulkhead and used it as a ramp.—R. E. Tibbetts, Worcester, Mass.

Have you pulled off a smart one lately? We will pay for acceptable contributions showing ingenious solutions of problems in the home, shop, garage, or comp. It doesn't matter if it's wacky—if it works. Use government postcards only. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.



For intricate cutouts the jigsaw is in a class by itself. And it's versatile enough to handle many other jobs.

#### By Edwin M. Love

GENERATIONS of craftsmen have entertained themselves with sawing lacework projects from thin wood, using handpowered saws. Though ornate work seems to have gone out of fashion, the modern equivalent of the old bracket saw is gaining popularity in the home workshop. Besides hurrying the production of such traditional pieces as what-not shelves and saw-pierced boxes and grilles, the motor-driven jugsaw has opened new challenges to your skill in making plaques, silhouettes, and heavier projects such as signs made of cut-out block letters.

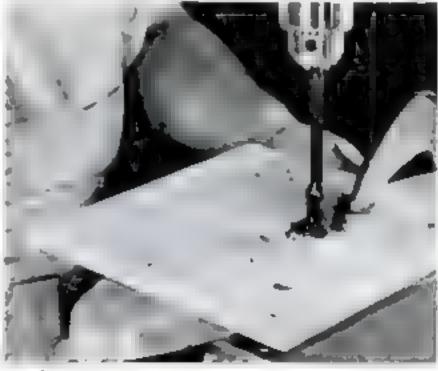
Solid wood is still good for many jobs, but plywood and grainless composition boards are tops for intricate cutting. Equally useful are plastics and the softer sheet metals.

True scroll cutting is an extension of the methods used in cutting circles with the jig-saw described in a previous article (PS, Sept. '48, p. 202). Add a few extra tricks for getting around corners and saving time, and you are equipped for any kind of design that comes along.

Laying out the work usually consists of tracing an outline pattern onto the piece to be cut. Many times you'll obtain full size patterns that can be traced off directly with



1. Make a full-size drawing of the pattern and trace it directly on the work with earbon paper, Use a compass to make a radius or circle



2. Complete circles are easy to cut out. If you use an expansive bit in the drill press, make sure the work is clamped down securely.



3. An accurate starting hole drilled tangent to two lines allows the saw blade to strike out along either side.

4. Before reaching a sharp corner—swing around and cut back along the adjoining line. True away the waste.

5. Then it's easy to come back and cut to the corner first from one side and then from the other. Be careful not to overent.

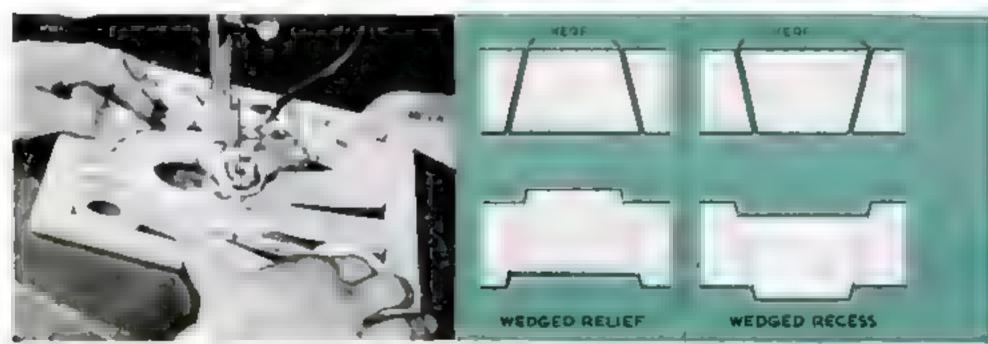
carbon paper, as in Fig. 1. To enlarge smaller designs, draw a grid of squares through the part to be copied, make a corresponding set of squares to a larger scale, and copy the picture square for square. The easiest way to make a symmetrical outline is to fold a sheet of tracing paper down the middle and draw half the pattern on either side of the center line. Trace this off, then flop the paper over and repeat the half pattern on the other side. A template is good when you have to copy the same pattern repeatedly.

Holes must be made to admit blades to inside cutting lines. When the cutout is a complete circle, you can use an expansive bit and eliminate sawing altogether. If you do, make sure the work is clamped down and take it easy to avoid splintering.

More often you'll make room for the saw blade by drilling small starting holes. Locate several of them in the waste near the line. So long as you stay in the clear, no great accuracy in location is needed. Better still (but requiring more care) is a hole that lies tangent to two lines (Fig. 2). Here the blade can strike out along either side. When the corner is an arc of a circle, a corner hole of corresponding radius does the triple job of giving you two tangent cutting lines and a clean, finished radius.

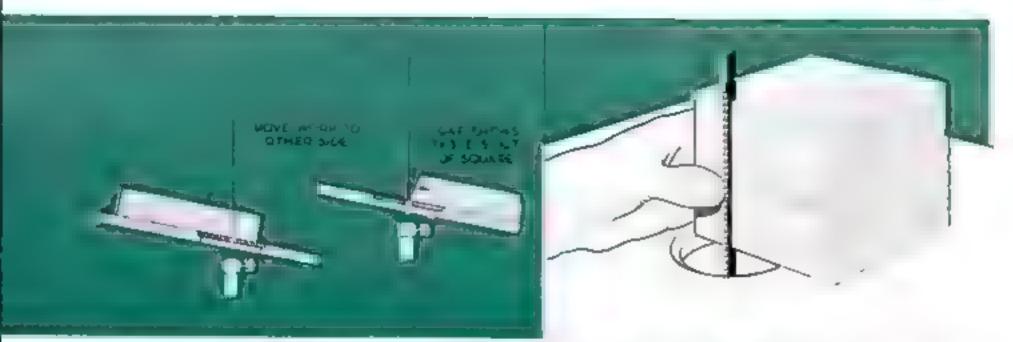
Whenever you can, use a saber blade—a stiff, fairly wide blade that is clamped only in the lower chuck. It saves time in removing and reclamping the upper end when changing holes. Larger blades cut faster and are easier to steer, but they will not negotiate sharp curves.

Work on either the left or the right of the hole, whichever is more convenient. To saw a sharp angle with a wide blade, scoot around a corner and come back on the opposite line (Fig. 4). After trimming away the bulk of the waste, come in from both



8. Sharp curves and small space call for finer blades that must be gripped in the top chuck as well as in the one below the table.

9. To make a beveled cut, angle the table. The cutout can be wedged into the hole either in relief or recessed below the surface.



6. Test the table for squareness by taking a trial cut in scrap. Move the cut end to the other side and see if any gap shows. If the table is square, there won't be any

7. Aligning the blade is also important, especially with saber blades that don't use the upper guide. The test block must have a squared base and a kerf exactly 90° to the base.

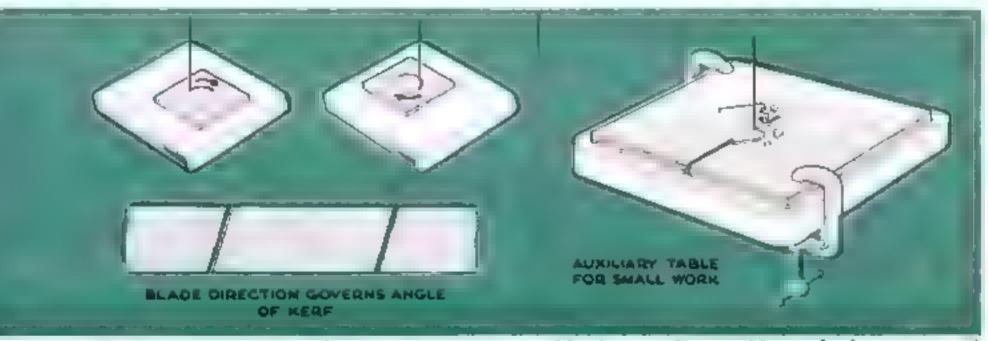
sides to the point or corner (Fig. 5). With a narrower blade you can follow one line right into the corner. Staying carefully in the waste, nibble out just enough material to form a turning radius for the blade, and then saw out of the corner along the other line. Small blades are required when the curves are sharp or the space is small. Chuck both ends with enough tension to prevent buckling on the upstroke.

In inserting a blade through a hole for an inside cut, some craftsmen prefer to loosen the upper chuck and enter the blade from the underside of the work. Others find it easier to clamp the blade first in the top chuck and thread it through the starting hole from above. With this second method it's harder to center the lower chuck

No matter how closely you follow the line, there will be many cases where your work will be wasted if the blade and table are not exactly square. The most obvious example is when you are making exact duplicates by cutting a stack or pad of thin pieces at one time. Any angle off the vertical will cause a noticeable difference in the size of the top and bottom pieces.

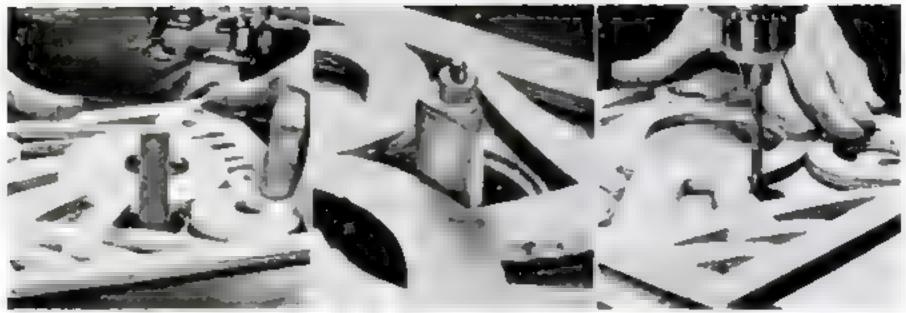
To check for squareness of the table, set it by eye and clamp it just tight enough to hold the setting. Make a test cut on a piece of scrap—preferably fairly thick stock. Move the cut end around to the other side of the blade and see if it squares up (Fig. 6). Using both the lower and upper blade guides will help in making square cuts. A jug for blade alignment is pictured in Fig. 7. Square the base of a broad wood block and saw a kerf exactly 90° to the base.

Fine blades are essential when you are cutting to a line that has no waste. Figure 8 shows such a case. The piece being removed will later be pushed into the opening until it is wedged. Here it is imperative that the cut not be square. Tilt the table



10. In order to wedge the entout, it is essential that the work remain on one side of the blade. Reversing direction spoils the effect

11. An auxiliary table made from a smooth board will keep small work from falling into the blade opening. Clamp the loard to the table



12. A broken piece of a cabinet file clamped in the lower chuck can be used to smooth edges. Cut the tang to fit.

13. Sanding attachments are even better. Nut on top tightens the sandpaper sleeve by expanding the core.

14. A round file revolving in a drill press is also good, especially on curves, but it won't get into tight corners.

and set the hold-down parallel, if it is adjustable. Bore the entrance hole at the same angle as the desired bevel, making it only as large as necessary to enter the blade.

The amount that a recessed or rused piece will project is determined by the angle of bevel and the thickness of the blade. The best way to determine this is by making test cuts in scrap. Figure 9 shows how the cutouts fit the holes.

After establishing the bevel angle, the most important consideration in shaping a wedge is to keep the direction of cut uniform. It doesn't make any difference whether the work is on the left or the right of the blade so long as it stays on the same side throughout. The wrong way of doing this job is shown in Fig. 10, and a cross section of the resulting cutout makes it clear why the piece can never be wedged.

Jigsaw blades are always inserted with the teeth pointed to cut on the downstroke. On very small work such as brooches, pins, and novelty cutouts, the blade may tend to drag small pieces into the blade opening in the table. To avoid this, make an auxiliary

BRADS

WETAL SHEETS

PAO FOR THIN METAL

13. Pade of stock bradded together allow you to make identical cuts in a number of pieces. Sandwich thin metal in wood for rigidity.

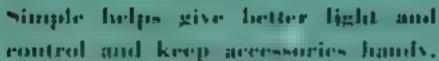
table (Fig. 11) from any large, smooth piece of wood, Composition board is particularly good for this purpose. Run it partly into the blade, clamp it down, and use it as a table for delicate work. In time the saw will chew away the opening, making it larger than you want. No matter Simply cut in another inch or so to make a brund-new opening.

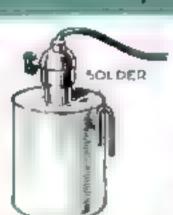
Much of your scroll-saw work will come from the blade so smooth and true that no edge sanding will be necessary. Where it is needed it can be done efficiently by chucking a broken piece of a cabinet file, as in Fig. 12. Grind the tang and sides to fit the chuck. If you have one, a sanding attachment (Fig. 13) also will do the job. A file used in a drill press (Fig. 14) works well except in tight corners. For the very sharpest turns, a strip of sandpaper or emery cloth can be drawn back and forth over the edges by hand.

It is in cutting identical pieces that the jigsaw shows its real mettle as a production tool. The best method for making duplicates is to stack thin pieces into a pad. Generally there isn't much to be gamed in building the pile over 1" or so high. Nail the pad together at the corners and head over projecting nails. When using large blades, nail through every available cutout space or shavings may wedge the layers apart and cause splintering.

The padding method is usually applied when cutting very thin metal. Sandwich the sheet between layers of wood (Fig. 15). The wood keeps the metal from twisting and bending. Use metal-cutting blades, of course. If your saw allows any choice of speed, the lowest one is the best here. END

# Adding Convenience to Your Jigsaw

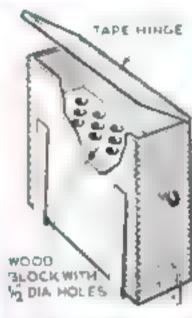




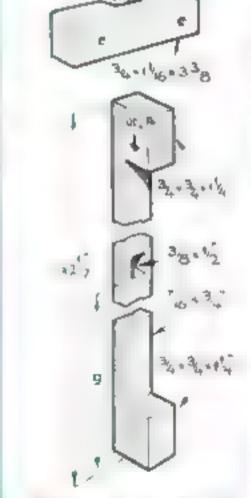
A tin-cau reflector with a soldered in puts bylit on the work where you need it A coop part of the work done or a jigsaw is of the intricate, painstaking kind that calls for steady concentration. To make my work cister and more pleasant, I ad 'ed the accessories shown here. No more sleadows on the cutting line, no more groping for a switch or playing hide-and-seek with extra blades. The blade safe is a nalled-up eight box water as end langed —Junes W. Pierer, Vulley Stream, N.Y.



Condetor the appears is his spod but in the large of Dr. Land Top or any to set

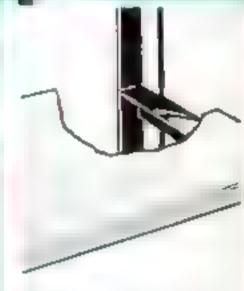


Blade safe is a cigar box fitted with drilled block. Hook on side boldy clinick weench



TIDE SE NOTCH

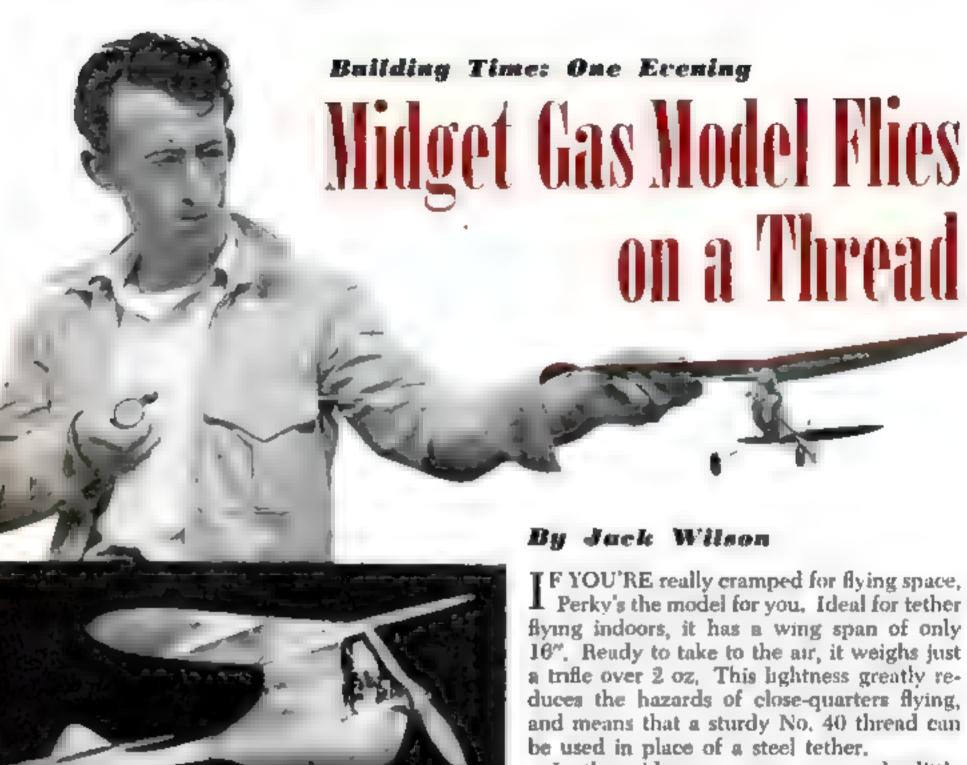
Mount an outlet box and the transfer of the tr



An extra shelf is supported by two lengths of angle stock. Bolt or weld Hem to less



Press of more tale



Perky is about length of this magazine you're reading. It has Infant Torpedo® engine, 5" prop, flies on tether inside or free outside.

In the wide-open spaces, a spunky little .02-cu.-in., glow-plug engine spirals the ship up to 500' in 20 sec. With the engine throttled back, Perky flies in wide, lazy circles, gaining only 100' altitude during a full-tank run of one minute.

Simple but rugged balsa construction means the model can be completed in an evening. Five hours should finish it.



Twelve wood parts make up model. Cut these with razor blade, smooth with No. 0 sandpaper. Mark centerlines, rib positions with pencil.

Check alignment of stabilizer with triangle or square before cement hardens. Do the same for firewall. Slice tail fin to install stabilizer

Three versions of the basic design have been built—one with a solid balsa fuselage, one with the fuselage formed of 1/16" sheet balsa, and one with the fuselage blocks hollowed to a 3/32" wall thickness. The last version is the kind described here.

Full-size patterns are given on page 189 Trace these off directly on the wood, or make templates of thin cardboard. Be especially careful in cutting out the fuselage keel piece. It is the key to accurate alignment of engine, wing, and stabilizer.

For added strength, fit a basswood stiffener into the slot in the tail boom, cut a 3" by 6" piece from a nylon stocking, coat it with cement, and wind it around the boom blice off the top of the fin at the indicated his and cement the stabilizer in place.

Form a landing gear by doubling a 7" length of wire and shaping as shown. Punch the holes and slot in the plywood firewall with a sharp ice pick. Push the wire "U" through the slot, pinch down against the wood, bind with thread, and cement well. Put a drop of solder on each axle to hold the wheel on.

Cement the firewall to the fuselage and the engine-mounting nuts to the firewall Now lightly cement the cowl and fuselage blocks in position. Carve and sand to outside shape. When this has been done, preoff the blocks and hollow them out to 3-32" thickness. Again cement in place. Be careful in carving the cowl to fit the engine closely.

In forming the wings, first cement %" of each rib to the panel. When this cement has set, dampen the top surface of the panel and cement the ribs down. A scrap of wood

between the clothespins and top of the wing will protect the surface.

When the ribs are solidly in place, dampen the top of the wing panels again and pin them to a flat surface until the wood has dried completely. Thin cardboard will prevent the pins from marring the wood.

After sanding the root ribs to give the indicated dihedral, cement the wing panels together. Finally, cement to the fuselage.

For a slick finish, apply a couple of coats of wood filler, brushing against the grain. Then apply a coat of clear dope, three coats of color, and two coats of hot-fuel proofer. Sand lightly after all but the last color coat and hot-fuel proofer.

You can make a satisfactory wood filler by mixing talcum powder or Fuller's earth with clear dope to the consistency of a thin paste. Use about two teaspoons of powder to four of dope.

A combination flight timer and fuel cutoff device for short hops can be contrived by using a special 3" fuel line. Just before launching, this is pulled from the tank pipe so that only the fuel held in the line is fed to the engine. This will keep it running about 15 sec.

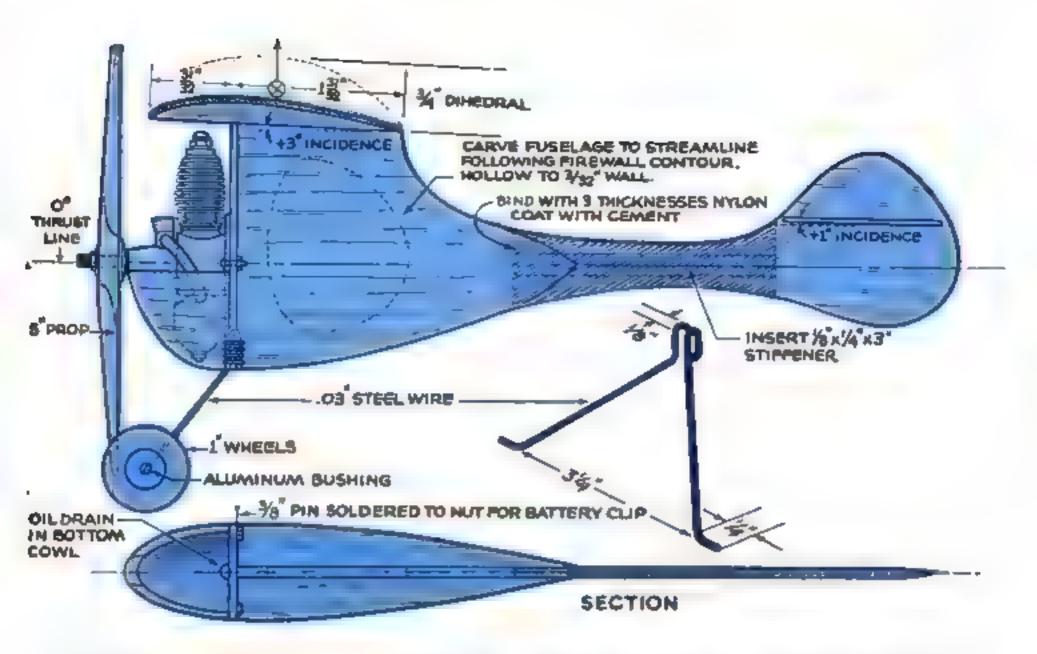
The long line is stiffened by a spring made by wrapping No. 28 brast spring wire around a 1/16" rod for a distance of %", Stretch the spring to 2" length and push it into the carburctor end of the line.

Balance the finished plane at the wing roots 15" back of the firewall. Test-glide the plane cautiously at first, starting out over tall grass in calm weather. The model should glide fast and flat for 45 or 50 feet. There



Carve and sand fuselage and cowling blocks to streamline contour, with firewall as a guide. Hollow out blocks before final cementing.

Cement rib tips in place (top), puning until dry. Then dampen top of wing, form to ribs, and cement, holding in place with clothespins.



should be only a slight tendency to turn, since this will be increased with faster powered flight.

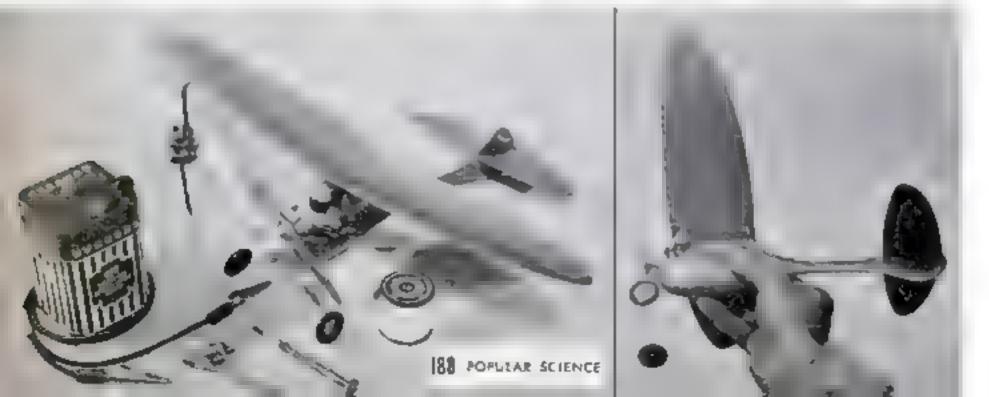
For the first power flight, hand launch the plane upwind with the nose straight ahead and the engine at its slowest speed. Use only a 15-sec, fuel supply. Throw the model with slightly less force than for the test glides. Shift the engine thrust line as necessary by shimming the engine up, down, right, or left with wood slivers. For all-around flying, it's best to retain the 5" metal prop supplied with the engine.

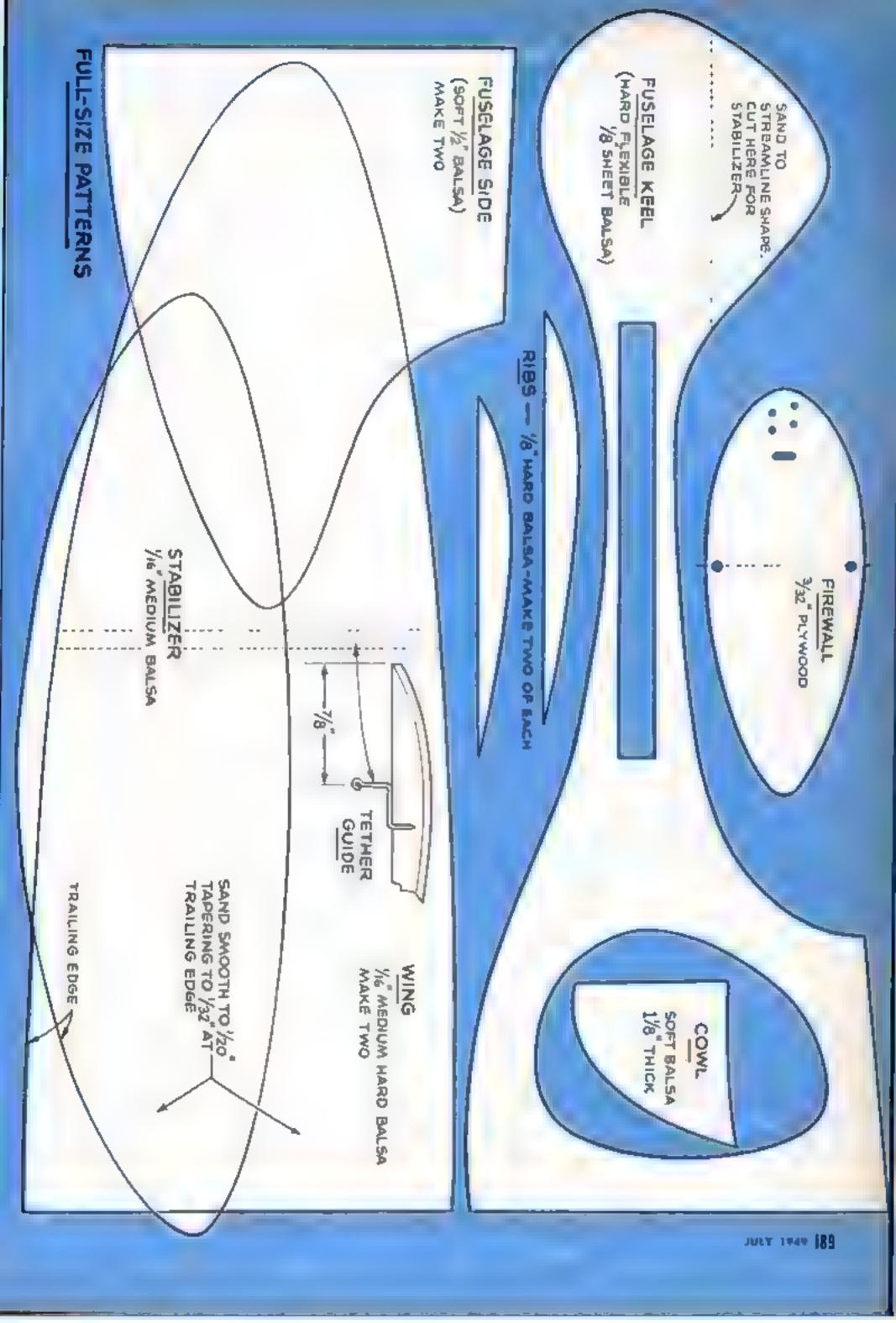
If you want to try tether fiving, either do it indoors or wait for an absolutely calm day. Run a tether of No. 40 thread through the wing guide and tie to the fuselage under the wing roots. Try a few dry runs first by whipping the model around with a dead engine. The nose can be weighted to shift the balance to the leading edge of the wing.

Complete flying equipment is shown in the photo at the left below. The fuel container is a 4-oz, feeding bottle bought at a drugstore for about 15 cents. It is fitted with a cork having two %" holes, one for a breather tube running to the bottom of the bottle and one for the filler tube. The graduations on the bottle are convenient if you mix your own fuel. A second, plain cork prevents the bottle from spilling in transit, Clips on the starting-battery cables are staggered to keep them from shorting out against one another accidentally.

Here's the kit for a flying session. The thread replaces conventional steel wires as a tether.

Aim the model straight when hand launching for power flight. It will fly about a minute.







Three jobs for the heating unit: warming liquid, heating plastic for bending, and drying lacquer, In 30 seconds, lacquer on the two locks was wholly dry. Lamps are two types, that

heating the liquid has bulb of hard, red-orange glass and is unlikely to erack if water splashed while hot. Other type is clear, less tough, Can with ends removed forms oven for plastic

# Infrared Unit Gives Handy Heat



Detail of homemade clamps. Upper half of slotted end is drilled for clearance, lower half is threaded to keep bolt from turning.

Block that holds the upright is bolted to base A %" bolt locks upright in block. Protect base from heat with asbestos or sheet metal.



THE more you use this heating unit, the more uses it suggests for itself. The two 250-watt infrared bulbs will dry model-air-plane dope, for instance, in 30 seconds and soften a piece of "" plastic for bending in two minutes.

Here are some other uses I've found for the unit: heating or evaporating liquids, drying bake-on enamel, driving moisture from surfaces to be painted, drying wet wood to ruse the grain, drying photo prints, removing moisture from dehydrating agents, curing vulcanizing-type rubber cement, drying other adhesives, and speeding up big soldering jobs by preheating.

To a %" by 12" by 15" wooden base bolt a block of hardwood to hold the vertical rod or tube. This upright should be about %" in diameter and about 2' long. Hold it in the drilled block with a %" bolt used as a set-serew.

To protect the base from heat, cover it with an asbestos shingle. Better still, cover the shingle with polished sheet metal, It'll reflect and increase heat on the work.

Sockets for the lamps are mounted on two 9" lengths of %" o.d. brass tubing, bent to almost 90" as shown in the photos. Although brass sockets are used here, porcelain ones would be preferable, being more heat-re-

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sistant. I fitted a ball-and-socket joint between one socket and its tube and two similar joints between the other socket and tube. These flexible fittings are handy in adjusting the lamps to odd angles, or in turning one out of the way when not in use.

Where the wires for each lamp leave the tube they are spliced to a length of well-insulated cord. To protect the insulation, ends of the tubes should be filed smooth or fitted with a protective bushing.

Adjustable clamps hold the socket tubes. For this part of the apparatus you can buy

burette clamps from a laboratory supply house. If these are not available, you can make them, as I did, of %" by %" by 2%" aluminum blocks. The lower half of the slotted end is threaded for the bolt. The upper half is drilled clearance size. This arrangement keeps the bolt from turning when the wing nut is tightened. The %"-20 wing bolt in the other end of the block acts as a setscrew to hold the clamp at any point on the upright. I made these wing bolts by soldering washers in the slots of %"-20 machine bolts.—Walter E. Burton, Akron, O.

## Little Vises Are Big Help

Moder, Makers, machinists, and others working with small parts will find these hand vises more useful than ordinary pin vises, thanks to their much greater capacity and holding power. The one using a X" or X" chuck will replace several pin vises.

Turn the handle from cold-rolled steel drill through 17/64", and run in a 9/16" drill for 2". This not only lightens it but lets you hold long rods (up to 17/64" drameter) in the tool. You can leave the handle end open or, if you want a fancy job, turn a press-fit plug.

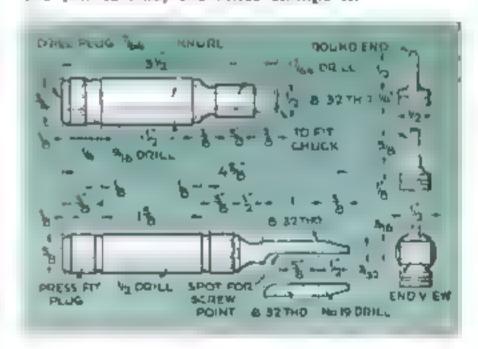
The other vise-shown in use in the top photo-holds flat or square stock. Turn the handle from drill rod or tool steel. Shape the stationary jaw from the round stock with a hacksaw and files, You'll probably find it necessary to form the small, movable jaw from a separate piece of stock. Fit it carefully by filing; the security of the grip depends on a close fit between the jaws. Clamp the jaws together and drill and tap for the clamp screws. Note that the single hole in the stationary jaw is threaded and the opposite hole in the lower jaw is drilled for clearance. Heat-treat the jaws and clamp screws. In use, the work is clamped in the vise by the long screw and then locked by the other.-W. A. Conway, Macedonia, O.

Here's a good use for an old chuck, if you've got one. With it you can hold screws for slotting or handle other slippery round objects.

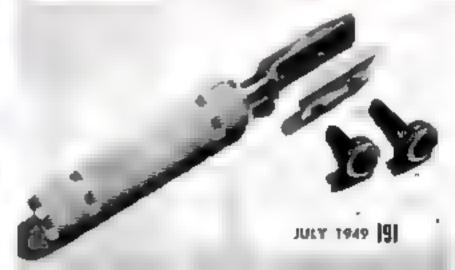




This little vise holds small flat work securely in the double-screw clamp. One screw adjusts the jaw to size; the other clamps it.



Handle is a lathe job. Its big knurled shank gives you a good grasp on it. Jaws are hack-sawed and filed or milled to size.



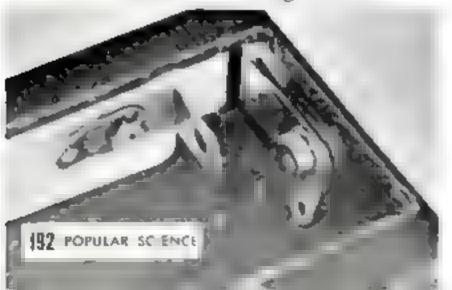


Plugging in an extra stage of amplification can improve the performance of small portables.



Making a switch out of the shde top of a cigarette case calls for a X" angle bracket a flat mending plate, soldering lugs, and hardware.

Assembly of the switch can be seen here. The view is through a 14" by 2" rectangular cutout made in the side of the digarette case.



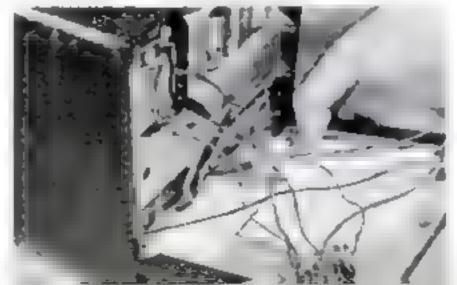
#### By Albert Rowley

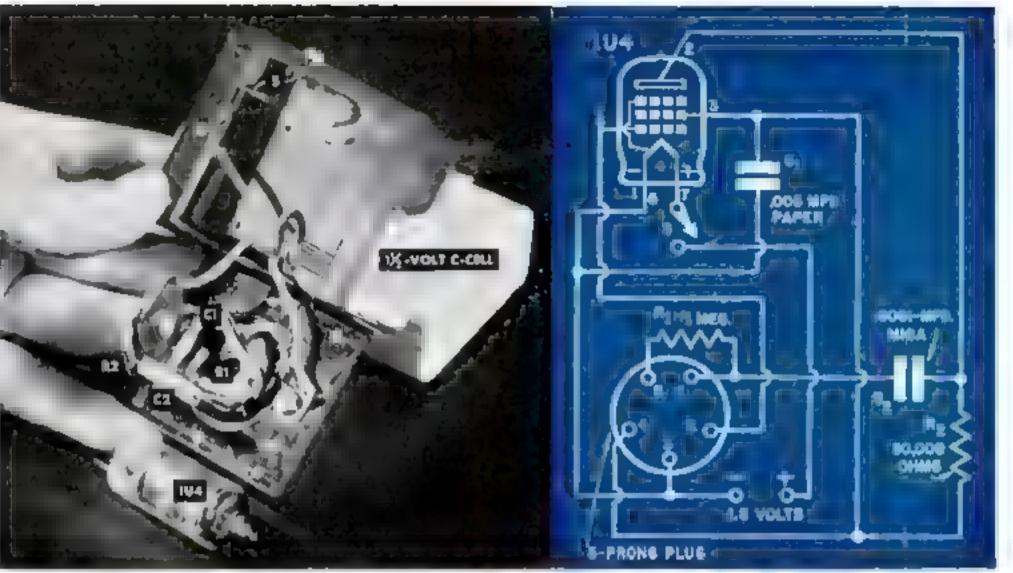
I LIKE my portable radios small. It makes sense to me to have a little set that I can lug around without effort, rather than one that threatens to pull my arm off at the shoulder.

At the same time I know my compact portable doesn't have as much pick-up power built into it as one of the larger, more expensive sets. It works fine close to a small station and up to 50 miles from a high-powered transmitter; but when I take it on a long ride, performance definitely falls off.

To overcome this defect, I built an RF booster for my set. It consists of an untuned RF stage packed in a plastic eigarette case It can be plugged into the portable when and if it's needed. The booster increases the signal pickup of the portable, converting its four-tube circuit into a five-tuber on

A 5-prong wafer socket mounted in the back of the cabinet supplies both electrical contact and mechanical support for the booster.





Layout and wiring of the parts is simple. The thing to watch for is cleanince of the tube and socket in the 2"-wide opening in the case.

The small parts used can be soldered directly to the 5-preng mounting plug and the 7-preng mountains water socket that holds the tube.

demand. With it the set can reach out reliably for hard-to-get stations.

A booster like this will improve a great many portables, but there are many more on which it would be wasted. Sets that already have a stage of RF amplification or two stages of IF won't benefit by the addition. To find out how yours stacks up, remove the back cover and take a peek inside. A 3-gang tuning condenser is a sure indication that you don't need this booster. Less certain but a good clue is the number of tubes. Five or more—not counting the rectifier, if any-mean the set already has enough RF or IF gain. As a final check, look at the tube-type numbers. More than one of any of the following tubes indicates that you don't need a booster: 1T4, 1U4, 1N5-GT, or 1LN5

If examination shows that your set can benefit from some additional radio-frequency amplification, your first step should be to purchase the little "cabinet." I used a plastic cigarette case with a slide opening on top through which the smokes can be popped out. The slide is useful because it's a cinch to convert it into an on-off switch.

In the side of the case near the top, cut out a rectangular opening. Make a cover for the opening from a piece of plastic about 2" by 24". It can be fastened to the case by drilling undersize holes and using small machine screws that will tap their own threads.

Drill and file a hole in the center of the plastic rectangle for a 5-prong plug that has a metal ring for flush mounting. Two machine screws and nuts secure it to the plastic panel. Inside and at right angles to the plastic attach a 7-pm miniature wafer socket by soldering its pm 5 to one of the machine screws. Make a strong mechanical bond to hold the miniature socket rigidly. A couple of resistors and condensers as well as leads for the switch and the A battery are then soldered in to complete the wiring

The filament supply comes from a size C flashlight cell that fits nicely in the width of the case; connections can be made by clips or bars bolted to the inside of the case. B-plus voltage is tapped off the set.

To make connections to the set, I drilled a hole in the back of the radio calinet and mounted a 5-prong wafer socket. Connections to this socket are made as follows:

Prong I goes to the grid of the converter tube. This is found at the fixed-plate terminal of the antenna tuning condenser (the larger plates of a two-gang tuning unit). The original connection is unsoldered. If there are two connections at this point, don't touch the one that goes to the loop antenna. Prong 2 goes to the wire you have just unsoldered from the tuning condenser. Prong 3 runs to the chassis of the set. Prong 4 leads to the positive terminal of the B battery. If you have a 3-way portable, it may go either here or to a B-plus point inside the set. Prong 5 can go either to the chassis

of the set or to the AVC line (the black lead \* from either of the IF transformers). Try both of these connections and solder it permanently to the one that gives best results.

For those times when the booster isn't going to be used, buy an extra 5-prong plug and solder a jumper lead between prongs 1 and 2. Plugging in the jumper in place of the booster restores the original circuit. END

# B Supply Cuts Battery Cost

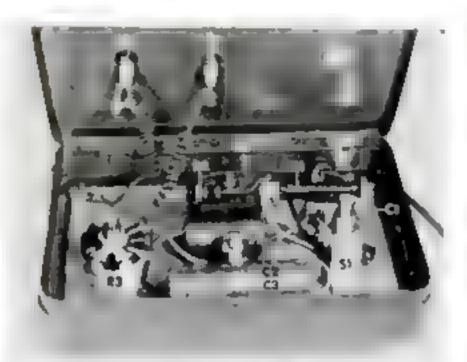


Listen all you want without draining those expensive batteries. The little box supplies B voltage; weight of the portable turns it on.

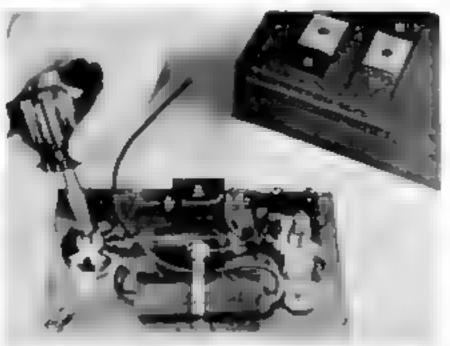
HAVING discovered how easy it is to make my small portable behave like a bigger set, I decided to get rid of another sore spot in its operation—the high cost of B batteries. It's no fun to shell out a couple of bucks every few weeks to replace the weakened battery. For very little more than the price of a replacement battery I built this perpetual B supply that works off any 115-volt AC or DC line. I still use flashlight cells for the A supply, but their cost is insignificant.

Like the RF booster described above, this device is independent of the set and doesn't impair its usefulness as a portable. While my set uses a 67%-volt battery, the same eliminator will serve other sets requiring up to 90 volts. It would be useless, naturally, on 3-way portables.

Instant warm-up is retained by using a 100-ma. selenium rectifier. This and all other parts are assembled inside a steel first-aid box measuring 1%" by 4%" by 7%". You'll find a cabinet of about this size convenient, since it forms a platform on which to rest the set.



Parts are mounted on a flat chassis that is fastened inside the steel box by machine screws slipped through the rubber feet.



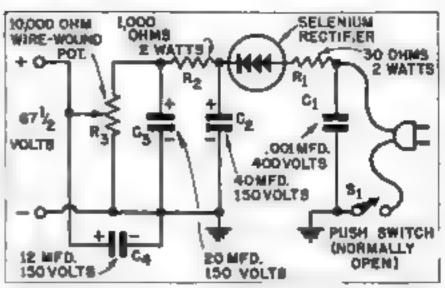
The shaft of the voltage-regulating potentiometer is sawed off to fit inside the box. Slot the shaft to permit screwdriver adjustment.

On top of the box and insulated from it by pieces of fiber are two 1" by 1%" aluminum contact plates. The remaining parts are mounted on a flat chassis inside that is secured by four mounting screws through the bottom. Use rubber insulating feet on the bottom and never set the box on a grounded metal surface like a radiator or sink, Better still, use a plastic chassis panel to insulate all components from the box. wiring together the grounded points in the diagram, and put in a two-pole switch instead of a single-pole one. This will open both sides of the power line. You could still get a shock by pushing the switch and touching the terminal plates, or one plate and an outside ground, so keep the gadget away from kids.

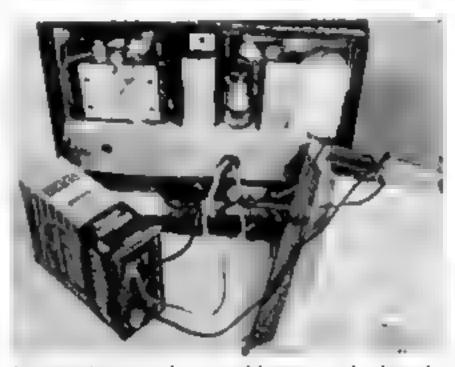
One side of the line cord is connected to the negative terminal of the selenium rectifier through a 30-ohm wire-wound resistor. The other side goes to the chassis through a push-type switch (S1). An aluminum strap holds this switch upright, permitting the plunger to project through a hole in the top of the cabinet. The switch is of the normally-off type. It is turned on by the weight of the radio and goes off automatically when the set is lifted off. It's a good idea to remove the set when you are through listening, for current will continue to flow through R3 even with the set turned off

Voltage output is regulated by a wire-wound potentiometer rated at 2 watts or more and having a resistance of 10,000 ohms. You can adjust this to any value from about 60 to 100 volts. Set it 10 to 15 percent above the nominal rating of the battery used in your portable. The higher voltage will make the set more sensitive than it usually is on batteries alone, and it won't do any harm to the circuit components.

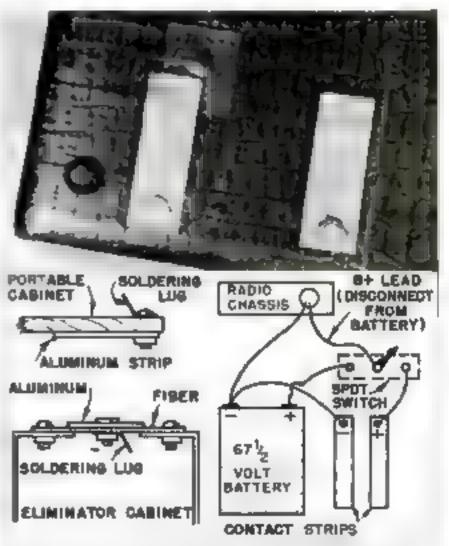
You'll have to make a few minor changes in the receiver. The first is to make some arrangement for disconnecting the battery when the eliminator is used. To do this, simply cut the lead to the plus terminal of the B battery and connect it to the center arm of a SPDT toggle switch. Wire one side of the switch to the battery and the remaining switch terminal to an aluminum contact on the bottom of the cubinet. The circuit and suggested method of attachment are shown at the lower right. Make sure that the contacts on the set line up with those on the eliminator. The switch can be placed in the back panel of the radio.—Albert Rowley, Manhattan, N. Y.



Wiring shown is for a metal chassis. To make the unit still safer, use a plastic panel, a DPDT switch, and connect all grounds together,



Connections to the portable are made directly to the battery terminals. The B-plus line is cut and rewired through a toggle switch



Contact strips are added to the bottom of the radio. These must line up with the contacts on the chiminator. The outer one is negative.

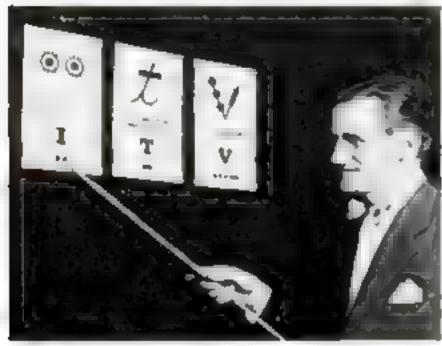


Adapter Plays 7" Disks. A turntable and pickup announced by Zenith adapts their Cobra® record changers for use as manually operated players with \$3% or 45 r.p.m. 7" disks. The adapter fits over the record spindle of the 78-r.p.m. changer and takes its power from it. Connection to the audio system is made by removing the cartridge from the larger arm and inserting an adapter plug. The player sells for about \$9.

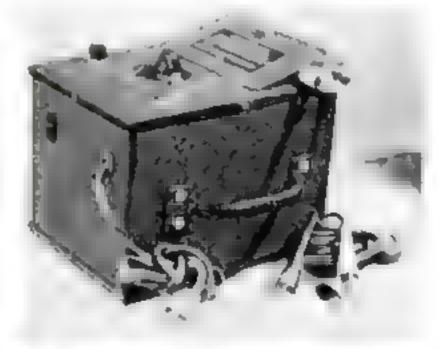
Thin Solder. One of the smallest cored solders ever made is shown at the far right alongside a length of solder of the conventional size. Both pieces are shown greater than actual size: the smaller one measures only .011" in diameter. Kester Solder Company, Chicago, produces the tmy solder. The noncorrosive flux core is of the resin type, said to be nonconductive.



Fluid Prevents Disk Statie. An anti-static compound sold by Merix Chemical Co., Chicago, is said to eliminate dust attraction and static noises on the surfaces of Vinylite® records. Vinyl plastic is used for many conventional records as well as all narrow-groove platters. A static charge on the record surface usually appears as a crackling sound. The compound can also be used on other plastic, metal, or fabric surfaces that are subject to static charges or static-caused dust accumulation.



Pictures Aid Memory. Learning the dots and dashes of the Morse code may become a little easier through a visual-association method developed by Otto H. Luther, New Preston, Conn. Pictures, key words, and color are used to help a learner associate the structure or sound of a letter with the proper arrangement of dots and dashes. The picture above shows the method used in identifying some of the letters.

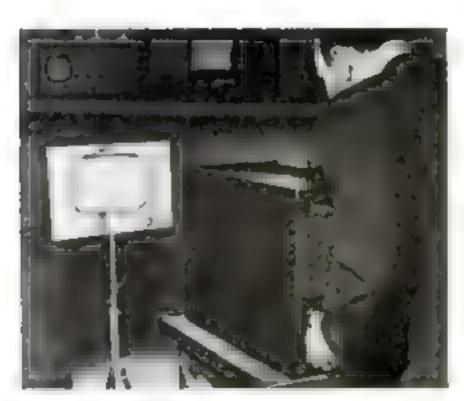


Box Prescribes Proper Filter. Quick and positive tests for interference-producing appliances can be made with this filter box offered by Aerovox Corporation, New Bedford, Mass. The unit contains a number of filters and allows for various methods of connection to the suspected appliance. A selector switch and chp-on leads permit comparisons to determine the best kind of filter and connection.



#### Small Sets Get Larger Tube

Splitting the difference between the present 7" and 10" picture tubes, General Electric has come up with a new metal-shell, glass-face tube having a diameter of 8%". Said to cost no more to make than the smaller tube, it offers 50 percent more picture area, or 39 square inches as against the previous 26. It is expected to find wide application in forthcoming low-priced receivers. In the photo above the new 8%" tube is shown on top of a standard 7" one



#### Mirror Aids Rear Adjustments

For the convenience of servicemen who have to watch the face of a TV picture tube while setting the controls at the back of the chassis, the Federal Engineering Co., New York, offers a metal murror and collapsible stand. Its price is \$6.



#### TV Antenna la Directional

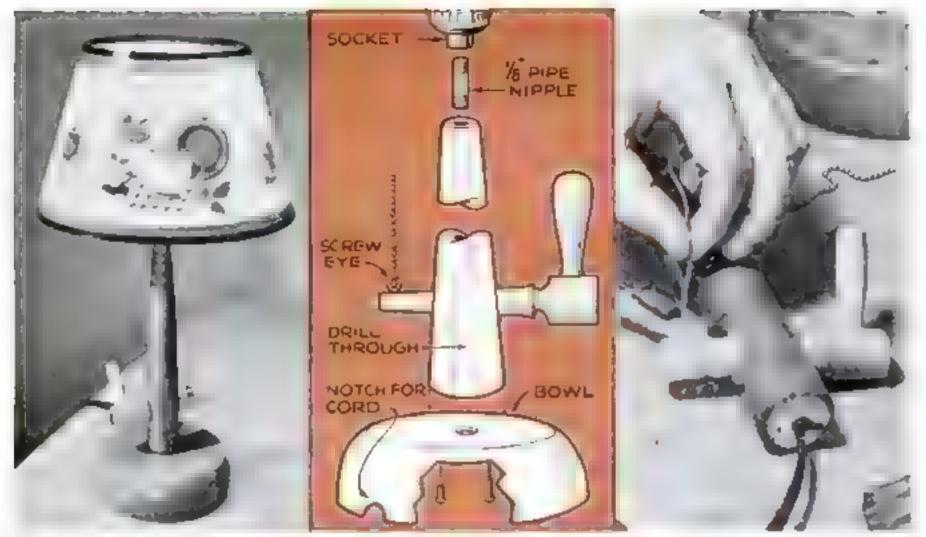
A NEW one-way antenna may enable television set owners who live in fringe areas between stations to eliminate interference resulting from competing signals. Even when a station is too far away to be received clearly (say 100 miles), its signal may be strong enough to spoil reception from a nearer station on the same channel,

The array shown above, built by RCA, will receive broadcasts from one direction while effectively rejecting those coming from the opposite direction. It can be made to favor either direction and is reversed by a switch placed near the receiver.



#### Clip "Loads" 300-Ohm Lead-in

MISMATCHING between a television antenna and receiver can often be minimized by the use of a 4" metal clip slipped over the flat 300-ohm line as shown. The clip is moved along until best results are obtained. Teleite Television Corp., East Islip, N. Y., makes this one. A similar item is produced by Crystal Devices Co., Freeport, N. Y.



Completed lamp (left) is turned on and off by twist of spigot's handle. Picture wire soldered to screw eye (right) connects to socket chain.

Extra piece of chain can be substituted for wire. Drawing shows details of lump assembly. Only two screws hold spigot to salad-bowl base.

## Spigot Turns the Light On

Roll, out the barrel, but save the spigot. It forms the standard of this novel lamp, and the tap is booked up to pull the socket chain.

The base is a wooden salad bowl from a dime store. Spigots of this kind can be bought from mail-order houses, at many country stores, or just liberated from a barrel. In addition, you'll need wire, a socket, a %" pipe nipple, and a couple of small wood screws. The spigot is already drilled for most of its length. Drill it out from the big end to the tap. Also enlarge the valve hole so that it will turn enough to switch

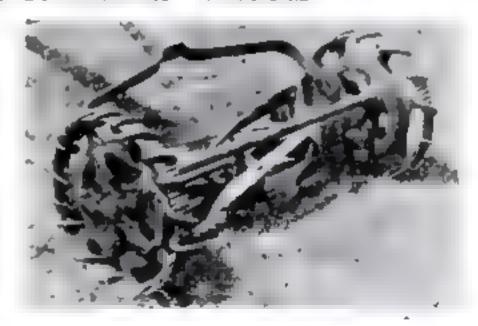
the lamp on and off without hitting the wire.

Drill a hole in the center of the bowl, with two smaller holes on each side of it. These are for the wood screws that'll hold the spigot to the bowl, Before assembling the lamp, notch the bowl rim for the cord. Force the pipe nipple into the small end of the spigot and you're ready to wire the lamp, Anchor the cord inside the curved portion of the bowl with a staple

Last step is to attach a piece of picture wire to the socket chain, and solder it to the screw eye in the spindle. I used a clip-on shade.—Arthur Miller, Manhattan, N. Y.

#### Cable Gives Lawn Mower Nonskid Wheels

Wheel, shippage during heavy cuts or on wet grass was reduced after I wrapped the wheels of my lawn mower with nibber-covered electrical cable. Plastic clothes-line also works very nicely, or even ordinary cotton sash cord. These, however, have a shorter life than the cable. Whichever material you select, simply loop it tightly around the wheels, as shown in the photo, and lash the ends securely together with a piece of twisted wire. All protruding ends are clipped off.—John Stofan, Teaneck, N. J.

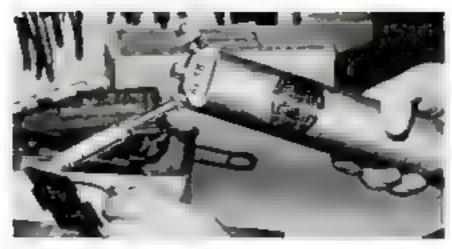




Saw Cuts Own Starting Hole. Fitted with a 1/10-hp, motor, this handguided power saw cuts wood, plastic, hard rubber, asbestos board, and similar materials up to 1" thick. The motor delivers 3,250 cutting strokes a minute. A patented blade permits cutting directly through material without drilling a starting hole or sawing in from an edge. It rips, crosscuts, and handles curves down to %" radius. Made by Forsberg Mfg, Co., Bridgeport, Conn., the saw sells for about \$50.



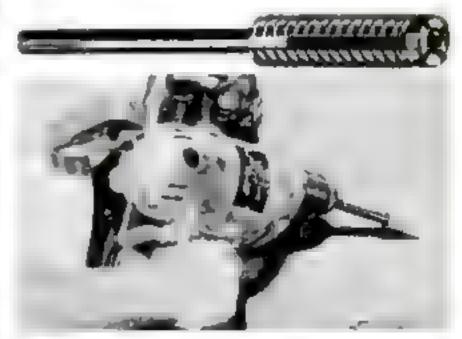
Wrench Fits on Finger. The finger wrench above puts your sense of touch to work in tight spots or out-of-sight areas. F. E. Redfield, Dumont, N. J., makes them to fit hex nuts of four sizes—X", 5/16", 11/32", and X". A set of four wrenches costs about 50 cents. The wrenches are easily bent to fit any finger size.



Torch Burns Petroleum Gas. A self-contained hand torch announced by Industrial Engineered Products Co., Los Angeles, is designed for light brazing, soldering, and other heating jobs. A valve varies the flame instantly from an intense blue pencil point to a roaring blowtorch flame. Retailing for about \$20, the torch can be filled from any standard butane or propane container for a few cents.

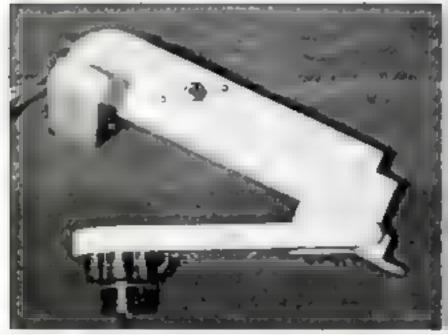
Saves Knuck
les. Attached to a hacksaw, this aluminum button gives you a better front-hand grip, Because it requires you to keep your hand out of the way, the maker calls it a Knuckle Saver of Future Products, Portland, Ore., makes it





Carbide Drill Cuts Rock. Drilling through a rock embedded in concrete is said to be a cinch for the RCD Bit<sup>®</sup>, a product of the Rotary Concrete Drill Co., Pasadena, Cahf. As seen in the upper photo, carbide cutters are brazed into the blunt end of the cutter shaft. The cutters range in diameter from %" to 2".







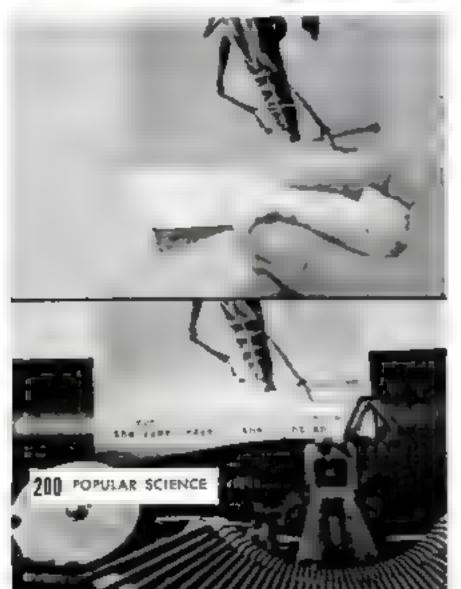
Safelight Bracket Folds Up. This safelight bracket was designed to make it easier to set up and take down photo equipment in a kitchen darkroom. As seen above, the bracket folds for more compact storage. A toggle switch on one side of the vertical arm controls the screw-in kind of safelight. A convenience outlet on the opposite side takes the plug of the enlarger

cord. Hence one kitchen outlet is all that's needed to supply both the safelight and the enlarger. A nail in the wall supports the bracket.

The slotted horizontal arm pivots through almost 360°, coming to rest on a stop atop the other. Wiring was run through the wood parts, but insulated staples could be used instead.—John M. Avery, Dexter, N. Y.

Titles Typed on Prints. By removing part of the emulsion from a glossy print, you can type a title or caption directly on the face of the picture. A solution made by diluting ordinary household bleach with water will take off the emulsion. Mask off the area to be treated, dip cotton in the solution, and wipe lightly over the area. Pick up excess solution with blotting paper.—B. E. Reese, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Liquid Mank Peels Off. Applied as a liquid, a product marketed by Andrew Jeri Co., Inc., New York, forms a peelable mask for local toning, reducing, intensifying, or retouching. Put on with brush or pen, it dries in five minutes on either prints or negatives. Red in color, the product also will serve for opaquing negatives. Below, it's used to protect figure while background is bleached from negative.

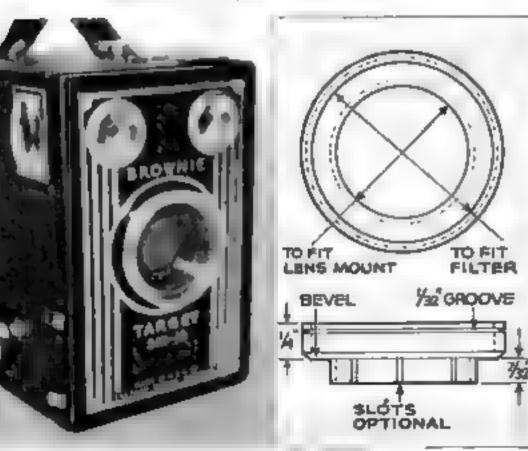






Remote Switch Sets Off Flash. An extension cord ending in a switch lets you stand away from the camera to operate a solenoid-actuated flash synchronizer. You can make up the outfit from a plug, about 10' of wire, and a switch. Instead of the switch shown, however, it's better to use a momentary-contact type so that the current can't be left on in the solenoid

With a box camera, as with more elaborate ones, a filter will add clouds to your negatives. If you have access to a lathe, you can make a filter adapter like the one shown. This was turned from aluminum bar stock to take Series VI Wratten® filters in a light press fit. The rear ring of the adapter must fit snugly on the lens mount.—A. C. Kuhitz. Millbrae, Calif





New Slides Have Depth. When projected on a screen or viewed in a twinlens viewer, new 2" by 2" photographic slides now on the market are said to give a sense of having a third dimension—if you look through a pair of Bi-Color-Scopes®, shown in the model's right hand above. Slides and Bi-Color-Scopes are offered by Horner-Cooley Productions, Hollywood.

Locating Disphragm Stops. The luminous paper that's sold for marking electric-light switches will locate disphragm stops on your enlarging lens. Put one tiny piece on the barrel index mark, and others by the commoner settings





Light on printer blinks at intervals of about I see, giving an accurate count for timing ex-

posures. Pressing down knob as above operates a snap switch, which turns on the printing lights.

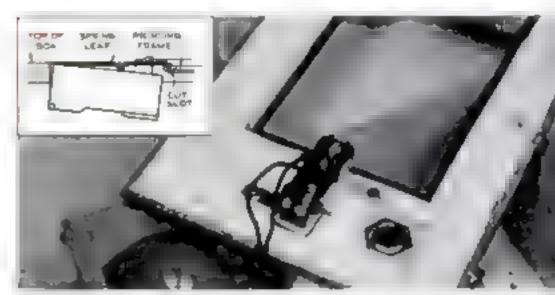
# Contact Printer Times and Dodges Photos

Six printing lights under the negative area operate by individual switches. This permits dodging. Note knob on printing-frame cover

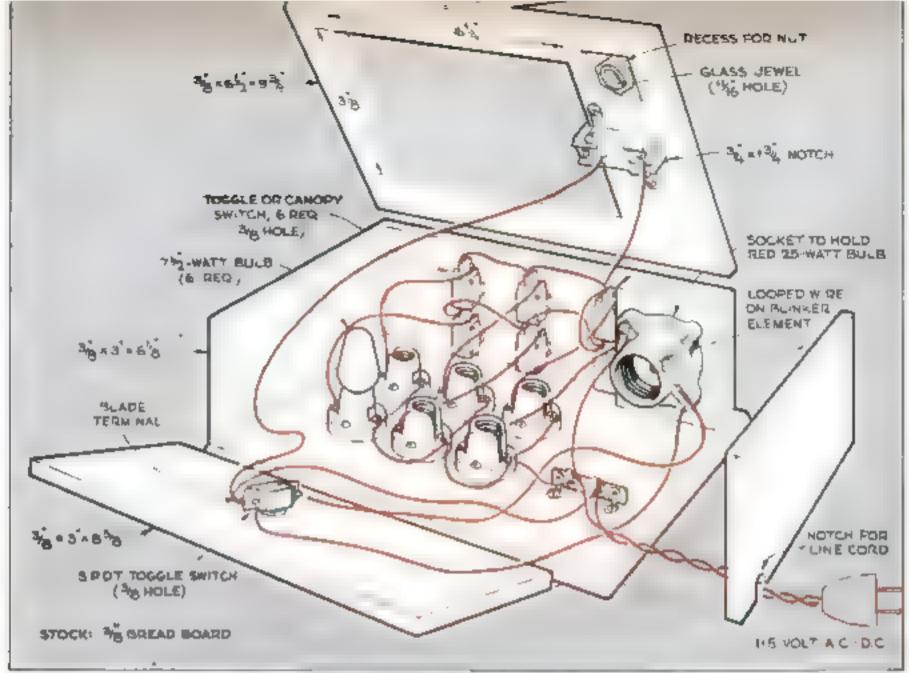
#### By Arthur C. Miller

WHEN you use this contact printer, there's no need to count "1,000-and-1" over and over to time your exposures in seconds. You simply count the flashes of a blinking glass jewel atop the printing box.

Sox 7%-watt bulbs, wired in parallel, do the printing. Individual switches allow you to turn on lights according to the density of different portions of a negative. This gives printing control similar to the dodging done in enlarging.



Snap-action switch is held by two metal brackets. It requires careful mounting so that depressing printing-frame cover will operate spring leaf.



Single switch on near side controls safelight blinker. When switch is in one position, the

red bulb glows steadily for use as safelight. In the other position, the light flashes for tuning.

All parts of the box were cut from two %" by 9%" by 13" bread boards. A 3%" by 5%" metal printing frame is fitted into the top of the box, the edge being drilled for screws. Remove the spring from the shorter half of the frame cover and replace with a small drawer knob.

Cut a slot in the frame to allow passage of a snap-switch spring leaf. Mount and adjust the switch and printing frame so that depressing the knob firmly actuates the switch to make exposures

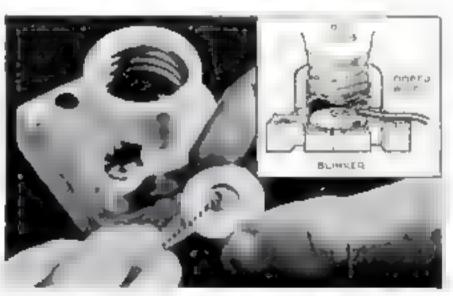
Group candelabra-size sockets for the

printing bulbs under the center of the printing-frame opening. Also mount a socket for the 25-watt safelight bulb on a X" by 2X" by 2X" block. Attach this block with screws through the bottom of the box. Because the fit will be tight, remove the block when replacing the safelight bulb.

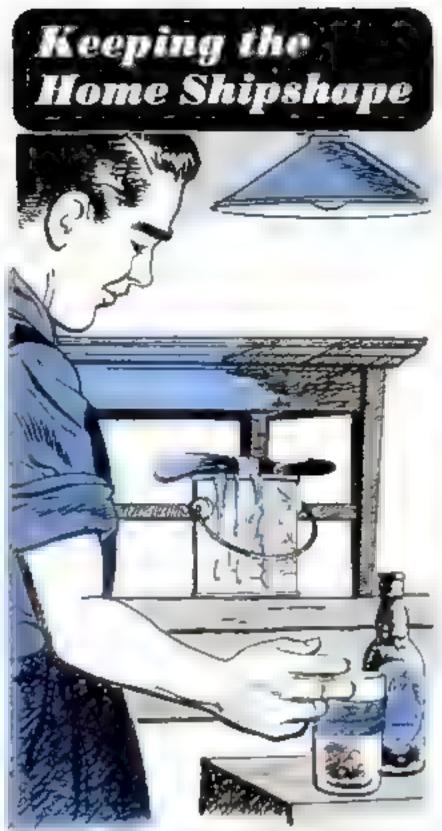
In one position, the single toggle switch on one side of the box cuts the blinker out of the circuit, allowing the safelight to glow steadily. When you switch from steady to blinking light, the bulb will go out temporarily and then begin flashing



Lights are adjusted in this way for dodging. With a mask and negative in place, they are turned on or off to suit the negative density.



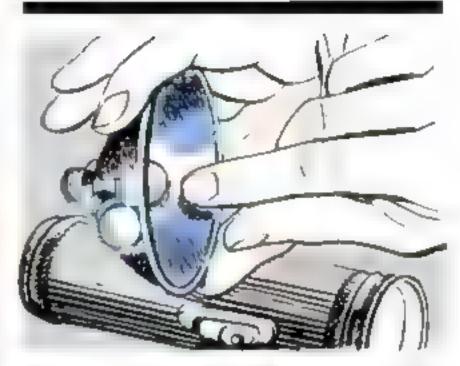
Looped wire stop flasher provides timing circuit. Were runs out of hole in socket. Screwed in, bulb holds loop in contact with blanker



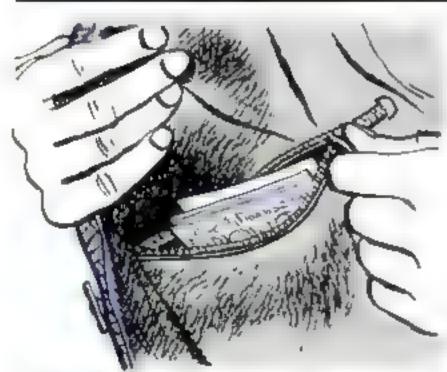
If you tike a cold drink while painting, wrap a hand of masking tipe around the glass. There will be no need to strape paint off later; just strip the tape to clean the glass.



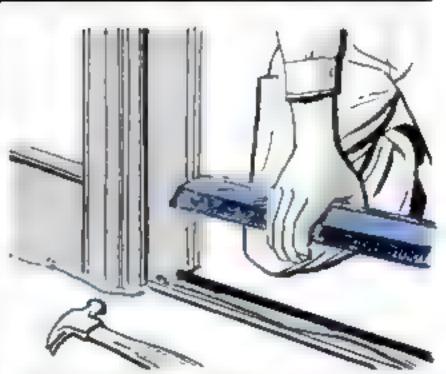
Window screens aren't much good if tmy insects can get around them. Fix those ineffective screens by tacking weatherstripping along edges that fit loosely in the window frames



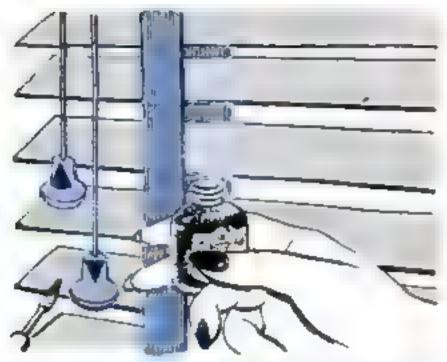
Own a 3-cell flashlight? Tape an extra, smaller bulb to the reflector for future use As cells run down, 2.5-volt bulb will light brightly when 3.8-volt bulb hardly glows.



Guard against losing papers from an inside coat pocket by attaching a slide fastener. It's especially good protection in the summer, when you're apt to carry a jacket on your arm.



Instead of carrying electric wiring for extension outlets over the top of a door remove the sill and replace it with electrical conduit of the two-piece molding type illustrated.



To distinguish at a glance which cord of a Venetian blind tilts the slats up and which tilts them downward, paint an identifying arrowhead on each pull with nail polish



As a soap saver, stretch three or four rubber bands around a soap dish as shown They keep the scap high and dry. Allowing it to dry between times makes soap last longer.



A nuterucker kept handy in the medicine cabinet will help you open stubborn serew caps in a hurry and save extra trips down to the kitchen or basement looking for tools.



Ends of drape material and other large fabries often must be squared before the piece can be measured. A newspaper laid evenly along an edge gives a true line on the end,



About an hour before serving ice cream in hot weather, try putting the dishes in the refrig-

erator. Chilled plates will help keep it from getting soft and soupy before it can be eaten.

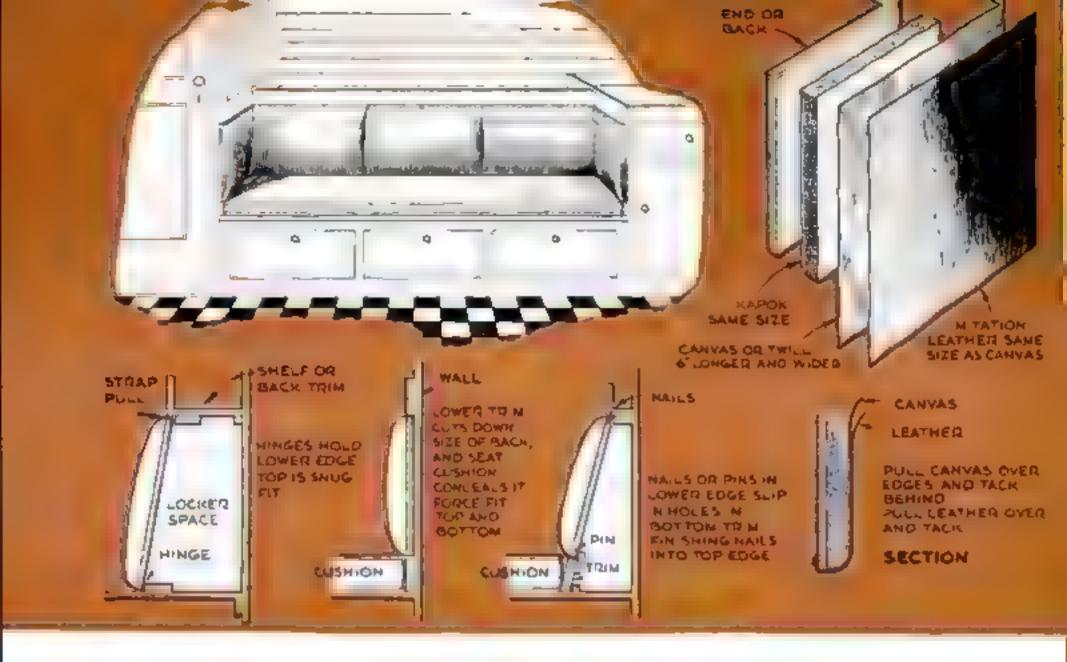


WHILE these cabinets take up wall space, they don't obstruct traffic through the room. Deep enough to hold big books and even 10" record albums, they still hug the wall. Both have the same basic design, open shelves in one occupving a center section. Built with hand tools, the cabinets have proved very useful in supplying needed storage space,

Twenty feet of 1" by 12" clear white pine went into each cabinet, plus the extra footage for shelves and partitions. The large cabinet doors are white-pine plywood. The small doors are 1" by 14" pine, battened to resist warping. For economy and lightness, the backs are hard composition board.

Corner construction—mitered, glued, and screwed—is shown in the drawing. Shelves are supported by X" by X" cleats screwed to ends and partitions.

The only difficult part in construction is mitering the corners. However, most lumber yards that do mill work will cut them for you at a small price. (I paid 35 cents to have eight ends mitered.) You can obtain a nice finish on white pine by brushing on three coats of orange shellac, rubbing each coat when dry with fine steel wool. Finally, apply a coat of wax. This turns out a mellow, wheat-colored finish that goes well with the black forged-iron hardware. The bases are recessed.—Robert C. Gass, Toledo, O.



## Building Padded Seat Backs

PADDED sent backs not only dress up a room but add comfort. You can fit them in any built-in sent—in a den, playroom, breakfast nook, or aboard a boat.

Ends, too, may be padded. In laying these out, allow for any slant that you may want to give the back. Build up the backing boards of 1" solid stock, using edge battens, or use %" or heavier plywood. Make each panel %" undersize all around to give clearance for turning the edges of the covering.

Upholstering moss or kapok may be used as a filler. This should be covered by canvas and then leather, imitation leather, or plastic fabric. Lay a 3" layer of the filling to cover

the board completely. Then put on a piece of canvas large enough to be pulled over all edges and tacked. Turn the whole business over and kneel on the board to compress the filling. Pull the canvas tightly and tack. Follow with the final covering. Space the tacks I" apart.

The drawing shows three arrangements for seat backs. The one with the locker space may be in three sections, the side ones permanently fastened and the center hinged so you can get at the space behind. Ends that adjoin closet or locker walls can often be fastened with screws from inside the closet.—Jim Emmett, Harryhogan, Va.

#### Picnic Carrying Case Doubles as Table

AFTER the food tray is removed from this case, five wooden legs lock into position to convert it into a 26" by 26" table about 1' high. When closed, the case measures 6" by 13" by 26". It is constructed of %" plywood with all outside edges bound with metal rails. Corners are reinforced. A clear plastic coat over the outside resists salt-air corrosion. The inside is lined with a washable, stainproof fabric. Table-Pack Co., New York City, prices the case at about \$16.





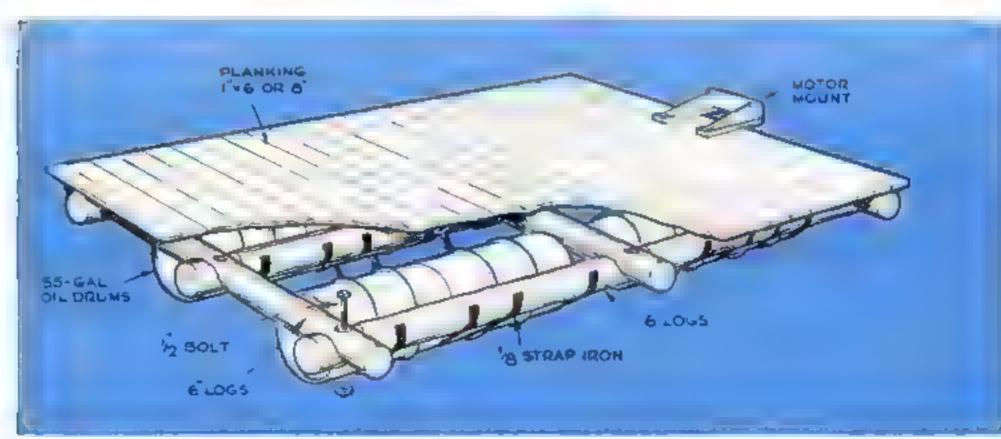
#### By W. D. Hull, Jr.

TOM SAWYER and Huckleberry Finn A had a lot of fun cruising down a river on a raft. It's still a fine way to spend a comfortable, take-it-easy vacation, especially if you're not in a harry to get anywhere.

We rafted 600 miles, from Shreveport, La., to New Orleans, drifting down the Red, Atchafulaya, and Mississippi Rivers. Only one modern convenience—a 1%-hp, outboard motor-went along. We used it to kick the raft in and out of the current or to get to the bank. Otherwise, our supplies were pretty much the same as those carried by Mark Twain's characters: commeal, bacon, eggs, and fishing tackle,

Building the raft is a simple operation. Ours was affoat in 10 days, and we only worked on it in our spare time. Total costoutboard excepted—was \$150, Six-inch logs made the frame and 1" by 6" or 8" rough planks formed the deck. Rough hardwood is just as good as planed stock and it's cheaper than the finished stuff. When you nail down the planking, fit the boards as closely together as von can.

Length of the logs is not too important. Our raft was 10' by 14' but you can make yours longer and wider if you want. It depends on how many people are going on your expedition (there were two on ours). Run three logs the length of the raft and three the width. Notch them with an ax



Construction is simple. Six 6" logs, bolted together and covered with planking, form the main frame of the raft. Strap from bridging the logs holds the 55-gal, oil drams securely in place.

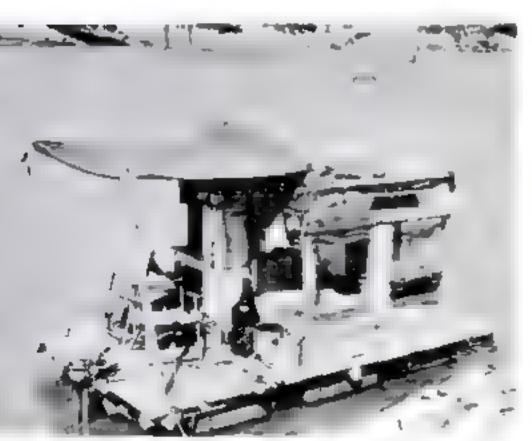
where they meet and hold the joints with 2" bolts as shown in the drawing. This type of construction is solid enough, but for extra strength better string No. 9 wire diagonally between each section formed by the logs. Turnbuckles will tighten up the wire for you.

If you haven't built your raft near the water, drag it there now. With the logs bolted together and the planking nailed down, it'll be pretty heavy. Next step is to lash the 55-gal, oil drums under the raft. We used 10 drums and held them in place with %" by 1" strap iron screwed to the logs and bolted to the underside of the planking.

Cabin dimensions will have to suit your framework, but build it big enough for a couple of bunks. Double bunks will save space. Locate the cabin toward the forward end of the raft, as shown in the photo at the bottom of this page. The cabin is simple: uprights with boards around the lower part and screening around the upper section. The planked roof is covered with roofing paper. Leave space for a screen door.

To provide shade, a pair of uprights on the aft end and a tarpaulin will do. Add lawn chairs and a charcoal stove and you're ready to shove off. We made our stove by rolling sheet steel into a cylinder and welding it. About two-thirds from the bottom a piece of chicken wire was fitted in the cylinder. After cutting a vent below the chicken wire, we had a workable stove.

Of course, the raft will turn and twist as it floats with the current. It'll do this slowly, however, and turning isn't a hazard if you stay on watch to avoid other craft.



Not neat or gaudy, but double bunks in the cabin and chairs on deck make it comfortable



Only simple tools were used to convert two baby-grand pane boxes into a big playhouse.

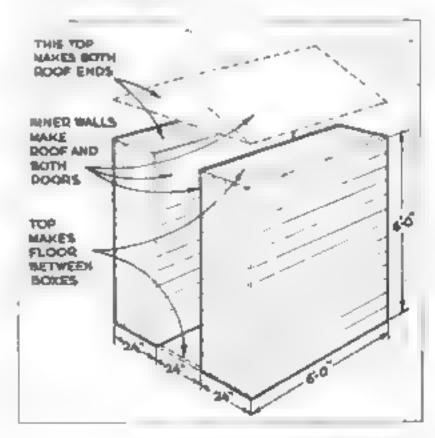
#### Two Piano Boxes Provide Lumber for Big Playhouse

Kibs get a lot of pleasure playing house, and for about \$25 you can buy all the materials to build this one. Hand tools will do the job.

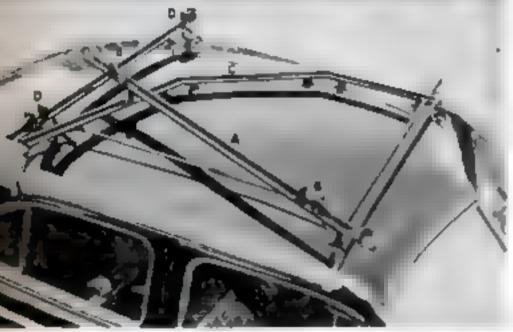
Get shipping boxes for baby-grand pianos, not boxes for uprights. You'll find that these



by side with 2' of space between them. As shown in the drawing, the top of one box makes the floor in the 2' space. The top of the other box forms the ends of the roof, and the two inner walls make the roof and both doors—if you want a door at each end. Out windows as desired. A four-light barn sash was used in the house pictured here. The roof is finished with composition shingles, and trim was cut from the box braces.—Robert Culshaw, Pekin, Ill.







#### Carrier Eases Boat Loading

This carrier balances a small boat so that one man can lift it on or off a car top. Here's how it works; set bar A parallel to the side of the car, and lean boat against it, bow in air (top photo, above). Lock the gunwales in clamps B (lower photo, above). Next, lift the stern until the boat is horizontal. Bar A now rides in track C as the stern is swung around until bow points forward. Finally, clamp the aft gunwales at D. The rack is priced at \$28.75 by Superior Sports Equipment, Inc., Lynn, Mass



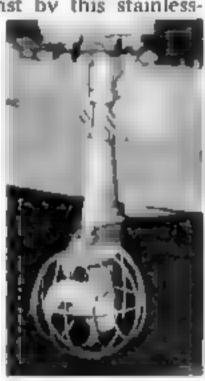
#### **Bar Locks Motor Clamps**

A NEW outboard accessory offered by Martin Motors, Eau Claire, Wis., is the Guard Locke, It fits over the clamp knobs of the motor and securely locks the motor to the transom. The lock also may be used when the motor is on a rack in a boathouse.

#### Cage Guards Propeller

Fouled or bent propellers and sheared pins are guarded against by this stainless-

steel cage that can be attached to any out-board motor. The maker, Luxurguard Manufacturing Co., Lockport, N. Y., says the cage protects propellers from submerged logs, rocks, shallow water, and underwater growths. It's especially recommended for outboards that leave the prop unprotected in reverse gear.

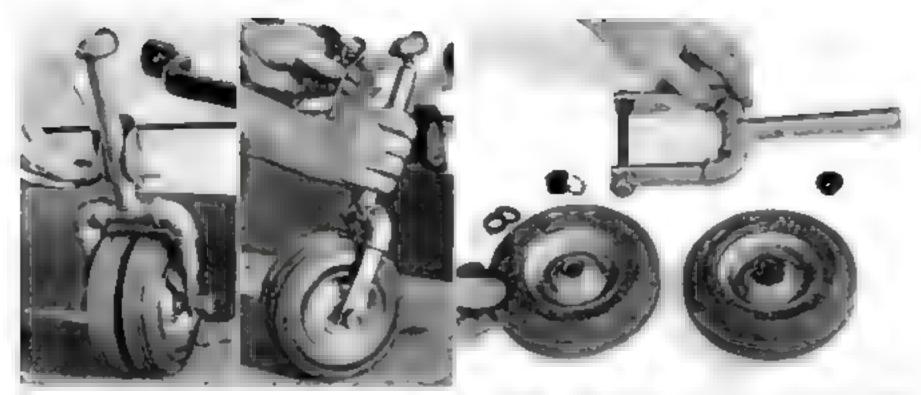


#### **Pad Saves Paint Job and Cuts Vibration**



A sheer of the synthetic material shoemakers use for some half soles makes an excellent shock absorber and scuff pad for an outboard-powered boat. Shape it to match the motor bracket and 1" larger all around. Cut a V where the bend will come to fit it over the top of the transom. Don't bring it too far down inside the transom or the clamps will catch and pull it off.—Clinton R Hull, Costa Mesa, Calif.

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One set of wheels is shown in place in photo at left. After pm is pulled, fork slides easily out of bracket. Top of fork slips over shank of

carrage bolt that's brazed in eye bolt through transom. Fork is \$" brass or galvanized-iron pipe. Wheel assembly is shown at right.

# Detachable Wheels Aid Launching

GETTING outboard boats into and out of the water is a lot easier when detachable wheels are fitted at each side of the stern. For firm surfaces, a pair of single wheels will do. For sand and soft dirt, duals are better. Once the boat is afloat, the wheels can be taken in easily over the transom.

Use small semipneumatic wheels with bronze bearings; ball-bearing wheels won't take immersion and grit. The wheel disks are steel and must be kept painted.

The fork assembly is %" brass pipe. Galvanized pipe will do, but isn't as desirable. The length of the nipple (including threads) between the elbows is %" greater than the width of the wheels. The arms of the fork are flattened at one end for the axle and threaded at the other for the elbows. These arms are 1%" longer than the distance from the center of the hub to the tread of the

tires. The stem is unthreaded. One end is filed out to fit the nipple for a stronger brazed joint. Holes for the axle bolt are drilled %" from the flattened end of the arms.

A thick felt washer between the hubs of the dual wheels exerts firm pressure on two fiber washers. Metal spacers and two more fiber washers between the outer hubs and arms keep out sand and mud. Smear the axles aberally with the kind of grease used in the lower unit of outboard motors.

The U-shaped brackets screwed to the transom are 3/16" by 1%" brass, Drill %" holes through the tips of these brackets and through the stem to take a %" eye pm. The top carrier assembly is a %" eye bolt through the transom with a short carriage bolt brazed in the eye. The top of the stem slips around the shank of this bolt and carries the weight.—Clinton R. Hull, Costa Mesa, Calif.

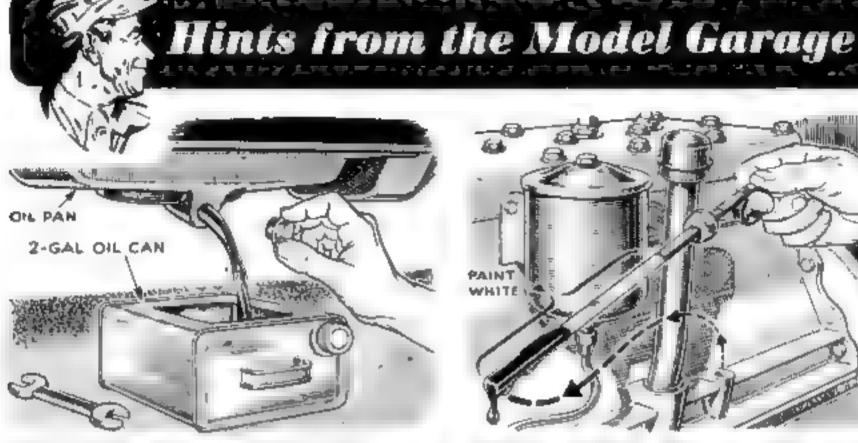
#### Jacket Has Built-in Life Preserver



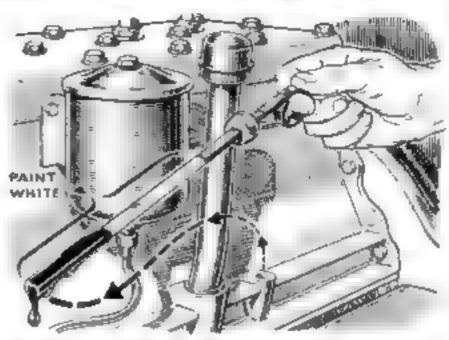
Designed for boatmen, this sport jacket has an inflatable Vinvlite® life preserver built mto it. Uninflated, the garment appears to be a conventional sport jacket. In an emergency, the hidden preserver is inflated by mouth. When it has been blown up, the air is retained by twisting the valve cap. The preserver extends around the chest and neck, as shown in the photo at right, It's made in sizes for men, women, and children by Neptune Specialties, Inc., of Brooklyn, N. Y., and priced at \$28.



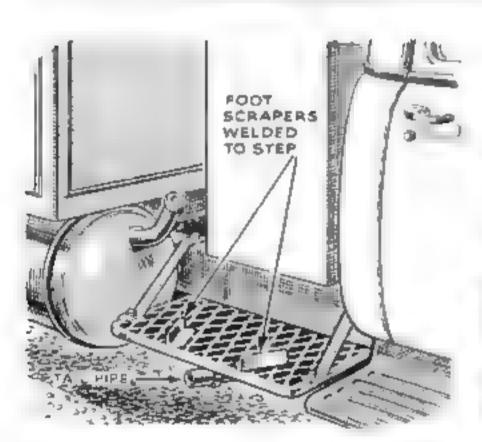
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Oil Drained into Flat Can. Some new cars are so low that it's awkward to drain the crankcase without a lift. The job calls for a shallow but capacious pan, Victor H, Lamoy, of Upper Jay, N. Y., reports that an empty 2-gal, oil can with a large opening cut in one side gets under easily. Leave a lip around the hole to keep the oil from slopping when you drag out the filled can.



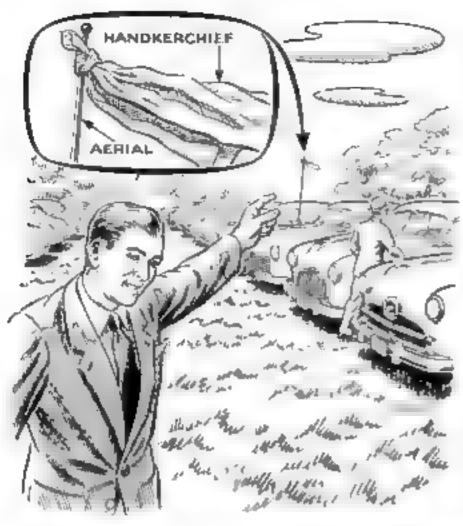
White Stick Shows Oil Level. It's always a little difficult to be sure of the oil level on a dark dip stick, M. M. Dierks, of Chicago, savs-a coating of white lacquer has taken care of the problem in his case. Before applying the lacquer, he scoured off all traces of oil from the stick and then cleaned it thoroughly with a wire scratch wheel to give good adhesion.



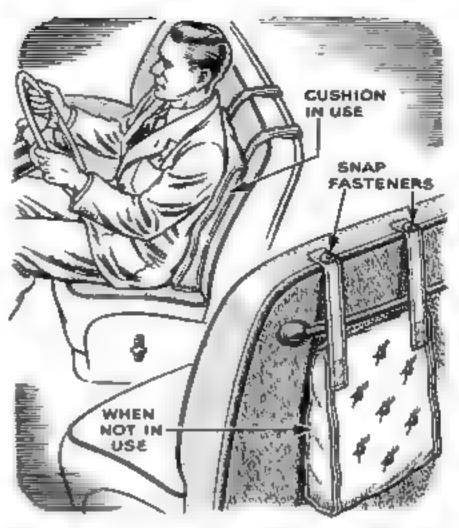
Foot Scraper Aids Safety. Wet mud is as dangerous on the step and floor of a truck cab as slippery ice. Operators of one Texas truck fleet welded foot scrapers on auxiliary steps just behind the regular ones to enable drivers to clean their shoes as they enter. To keep the step clear in winter, the exhaust line is piped underneath.



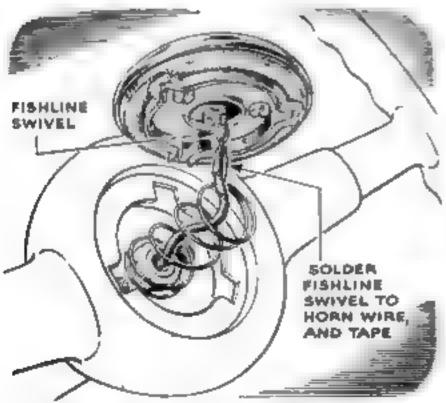
Welding Prevents Loss. To save metal, several states have adopted the practice of issuing small year tags for renewal of old license plates. To prevent loss or theft, you can tack-weld them to the plate. If carefully done, low-heat are welding will not distort the metal nor burn more than a small, easily retouched area of paint,



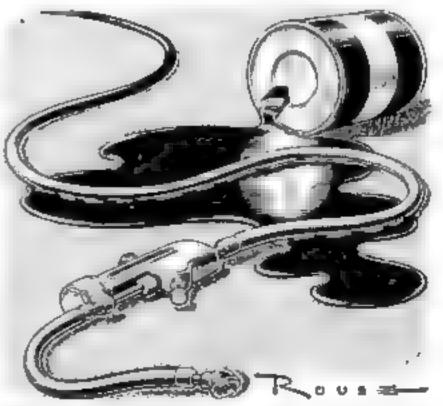
Handkerchief Tags Car. When you must park in a lot where there are hundreds of cars, as at the beach, ball park, or fair grounds, you can make it easier to find your car by extending the radio aerial to its full height. First tie a handkerchief or piece of tissue paper to its tip.



Back Rest Flips Out of Way. Does your wife need a cushion behind her to reach the pedals easily? Here's an excellent method of having the cushion always available but still out of the way when not needed. You may also find it handy yourself for changing your position on long drives.



Swivel Safeguards Horn Wire. In some cars the horn were inside the steering column is subjected to considerable twisting. C. B. Hopkins, of Tacoma, Wash., found that this caused the wire on his 1941 Ford to break several times. A brass fishline swivel, taped as shown above, took care of the problem nicely.



Oil Rots Rubber. If you run a shop, you know the cost of air hoses, battery-charger cables, and other rubber equipment. One sure way of increasing this cost is illustrated here. Grease and oil cause rubber to disintegrate rapidly. So keep such equipment off the floor. It's also a good idea to wipe off the lines occasionally.



Collar Made from Con Rod. The collar found on some drill-press columns is a handy accessory. If there's none on your press, the crankshaft end of a connecting rod makes an excellent substitute.

Con rods are available in many sizes. If necessary, the babbitt can be removed to give a larger inner chameter. Take off the bearing cap and file the flat surfaces until the clamp locks on the column securely. Leave part of the shank as a handle.

The collar does the work of an extra hand by supporting the heavy drill head temporarily while you are adjusting it,—
E. I. Hockaday, Jefferson City, Mo.



Wobbling Meshes Lathe Gears. To set the quick-change gear levers on your lathe more easily, turn the lead screw back and forth about a quarter turn with one hand while engaging the lever with the other. The "wobbling" helps to mesh the gears. When using this kink, set the fine-range lever first.—Heinz Landauer, Tampa, Fla.

Oil Can Holds Layout Dope. A convenient container for layout dope, used by machinists and tool makers, is easily made from an oil can and small paint brush with a round handle. Saw off the tip of the spout. Sand the brush handle and ium it into the spout until the brush tip rests 4" above the bottom of the can





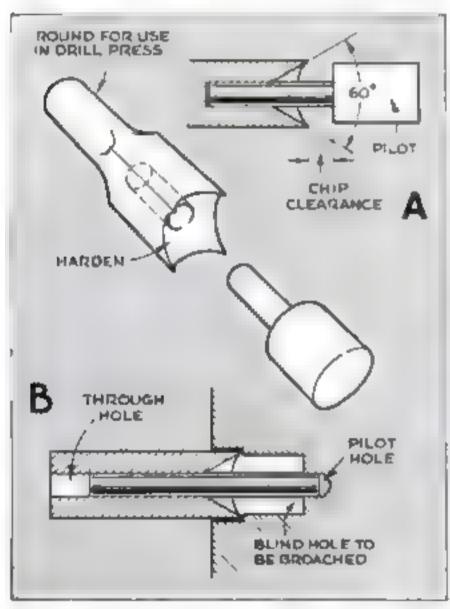
Turning Solid Blanks. With a ball-bearing center and adapter plate, you can easily turn the outside of solid disks or blanks. Face the adapter parallel and drill a 60° center hole. Clamp the work between the adapter and a piece of trued stock held in the three-jaw chuck. Center the blank by tapping with a mallet.



Springs from Movie Belting. If you need small coil springs, a camera shop is a good source of supply. Buy a replacement belt for a movie projector and cut with a chisel into springs of the desired length. Form hooks with long-nose phers. Stretch the stock first if you want to make compression springs.



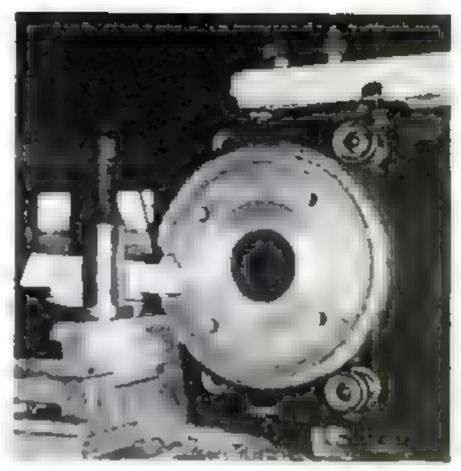
Soft Pins Protect Tools. It's not advisable to hang up a lathe chuck or faceplate on nails. The threads that take the spindle nose may be damaged. A better idea is to cut rings or cylinders from soft material such as composition board and attach them to a shop wall or a post.-J. C. Albright, Santa Monica, Calif.



Broach Cuts Square Holes. For soft metal, you can chuck this square-hole broach in a drill press. However, it will generally be better to use an arbor press or a bench vise and hammer.

Chuck the blank in a lathe to turn down the shank and drill the pilot hole. You might file the bit, but you'll probably find it easier to do on the lathe with a round-nosed tool and the compound feed,

For through holes, turn a round pilot (A) to guide the broach. For blind holes (B), drill a pilot hole at the bottom and use a guide that can be withdrawn through the broach body.—D. Bisceglia, Troy, N.Y.



Big Work Rolls on Skates. Some steel tubing rolls had to be faced off in a hurry, but our steady rest wasn't big enough Here's how we did the job,

One roller skate, shimmed to the proper height, was clamped to the lathe ways. Another was bolted to a two-by-four above the tubing. The two-by-four was anchored at the outer end and weighted near the work.

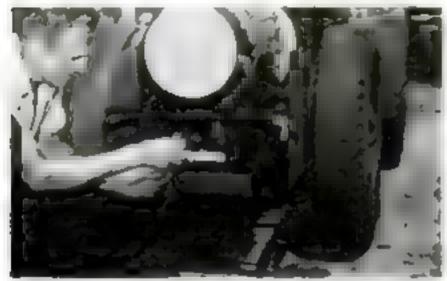
Henry J. Denomme, Lowell, Mass.



Condenser Parts Salvaged. In need of a short length of X" steel rod, I remembered an old radio stored away in the attic. The three-gang tuning condenser not only supplied the desired rod, but many other useful items as well.

Included in the parts, shown above, are two dozen 6-32 brass machine screws, six 8-32 setscrews, two dozen special washers, eight lock washers, and numerous brass plates.—A, C. Porter, South Bend, Ind.

Little steamer has cut down Model T chassis. Dodge wheels, and a Locomobile jump seat. It mus smoothly and quietly—but not very fast



Scraps of hardwood are burned in the firebox at present time, but designer plans to install oil burner. Boiler gets up steam in 20 mm.



Steam gauge atop the dome shows when car is ready to roll. For superheating, 12' of 3" copper tubing is coded inside firebox.



Belt carries the power from small pulley on turbine to a large one on the rear-end unit below. Ratio between pulleys is about 10 to 1.

# Turbine Drives Small Steam Car

WHEN its whistle toots, you needn't jump too quickly to get out of the way of this little steam car. Its top speed, on the level, is just a shade over 8 m p.h.

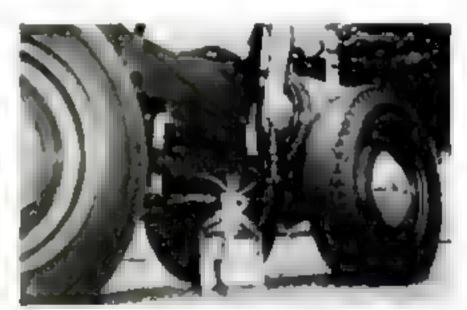
J. E. Mitchener, of Los Angeles, built it strictly as an experiment, putting to use some of the notions stored up during his experience as an auto and railway mechanic

Power comes from a turbine set behind the driver's seat. The turbine consists of two rows of buckets on an 8" flywheel mounted on ball bearings. A Packard brake drum, widened to 4", encloses the unit.

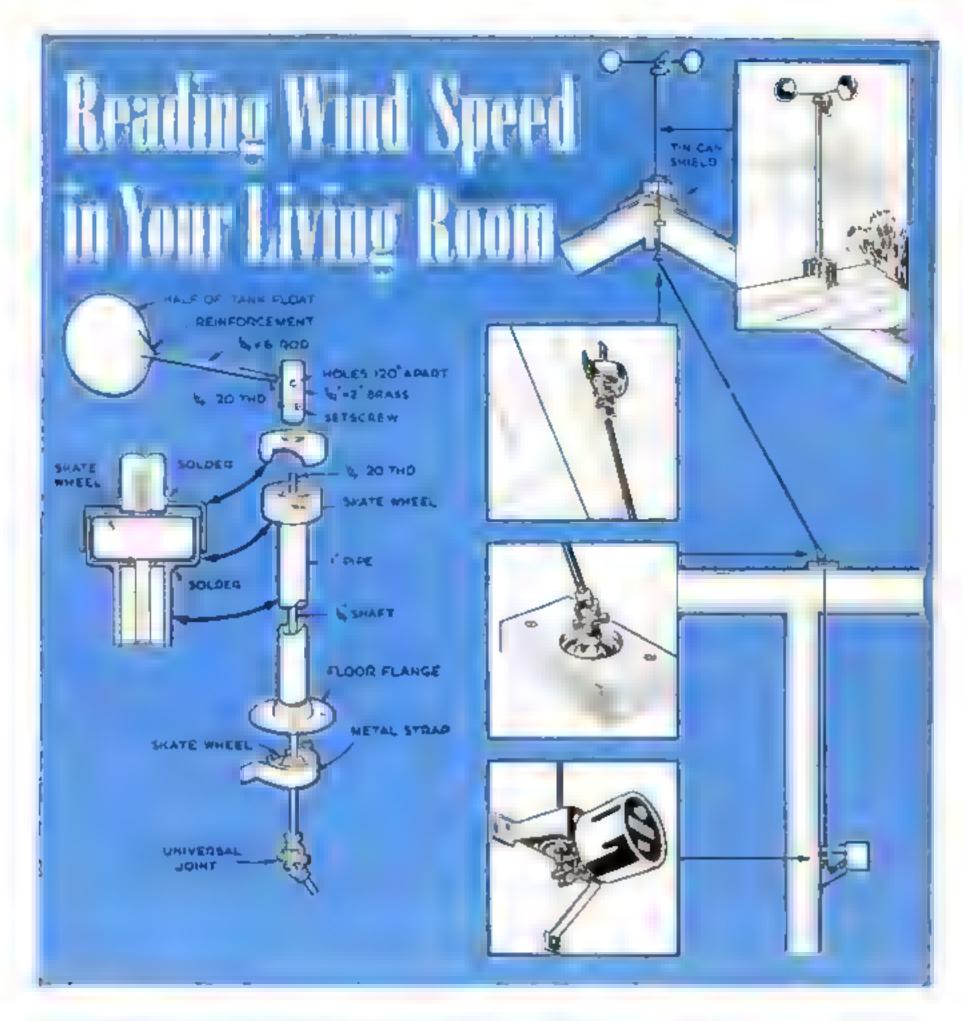
Hardwood scraps fire the boiler, which is the return tubular type with two water coils in the firebox. Steam passes from the dome through a superheater before reaching the turbine. A section of oil-well casing serves as the boiler shell. Operating steam pressure is 150 lb.

To give a better draft, the exhaust jets out the stack, as in a locomotive. The stack is a 4" Diesel exhaust pipe.

The machine cost its builder \$25 and some 500 hours of work over a year's time. For the chassis, a Model T Ford was cut down to 58" wheelbase and 29" tread. A belt drive transmits power from the turbine to a Model T rear end. All-over ratio from turbine to wheels is about 40 to 1.



Hand-operated pump is used to replenish water in boiler at frequent intervals. Boiler operates 35 minutes on a single 5-gal, filling.



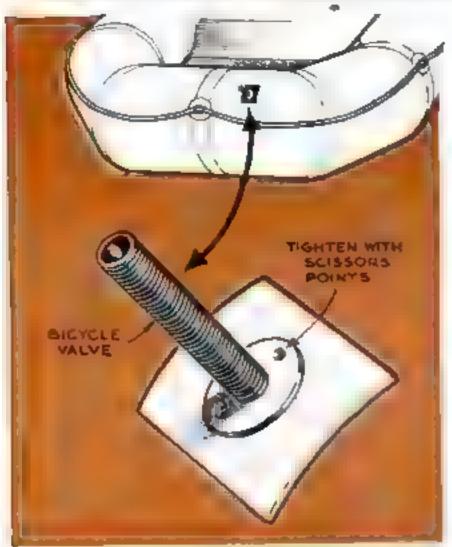
If YOU fly, sail, or just like to know what the weather is doing, you may want to take a cue from Keith Rumsey, of Friendship, N. Y. Parlaying an old speedometer, skate wheels, pipe, and other odd parts into a wind-speed indicator, he won a prize in a PS contest for ingenious uses of old auto instruments. The gadget has reported velocities as high as 62 m.p.h.

The anemometer cups were made by filing apart copper water-closet tank floats, and the rotating cup assembly was carefully balanced with solder. At the lower shaft end, a crown and a pinion gear with the same tooth count give direct readings. The instrument was mounted on a truck and its readings tested by comparison with the vehicle's speedometer on a calm day.

It's important, Rumsey reports, to remove the internal shaft that drives the trip and mileage dials, to reduce friction. He mounted the speedometer on rubber to damp out noise (you could fit a pin or brake to lock the shaft when readings aren't wanted). Putting the instrument upstairs in a two-story house would avoid running a shaft through the rooms, and cut down on the drive load

Mount the cups at least 2 feet above the ridgepole (more if possible) and away from chimneys and trees. Keep bearings and speedometer well oiled. If the shaft angles are very small, light rubber tubing can be used instead of universal joints.

## Rubber Boat Fitted with Bicycle Valve



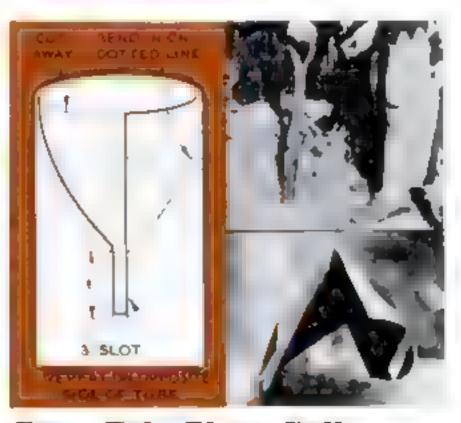
INFLATING a rubber boat with a small hand pump gets to be a tedious job, especially if it's one of the larger boats. I counted 750 strokes to pump up a five-man boat. However, by substituting a bike-tire replacement valve for the special one provided, I now pump up my boat at the nearest filling station and save my energy for fishing and rowing.

Select a convenient place on the boat to locate the valve. The upper surface of one end is a good spot. Cut a hole about the diameter of a lead pencil at this point. Do not cut the hole any larger than the diameter of the threaded portion of the valve. Next cut a hole the same size in the center of a hot or cold inner-tube patch. Apply the patch over the hole in the boat. When it has set, squeeze the hole into a narow line and force the base of the valve through. Slip on the metal disk and screw the collar down tight.—Norbert Engels, South Bend, Ind.



## Wagon Tank Stores Water

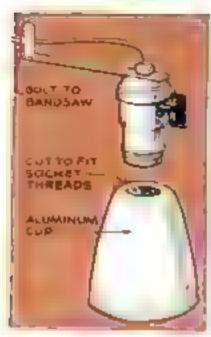
MOUNTED on a platform, a wagon tank serves as a central water depot for hogs and turkeys on the A. C. Gingerich farm near Wellman, Iowa. A force pump fills the tank. Then a tank truck backs up and is quickly filled from the large-diameter outlet of the tank. This system, filling the truck quicker than the pump could, speeds up watering.



## Brass Tube Plants Bulbs

Burying bulbs 6" to 10" deep is nearly impossible with a shovel unless you dig a hole big enough for a kettle. The answer is a 1' section of brass tubing 2%" in diameter. Across the end of the tube, hacksaw a slot 3" deep. Then saw away two opposite quarters of the tube as shown in the drawing. Hammer down the remaining two quarters until the points almost meet in the center of the tube, and you'll have a tool that looks like that in the photo. I attached an old shovel handle for a grip. In use, the planter is twisted down into the earth as in the top photo.—E. J. Hobert, Holderness, N. H.

## Attachment Lights Bandsaw



A BANDSAW light that focuses on the work can easily be made of an aluminum cup from a vacuum bottle, a keyswitch socket, and a length of strap iron. Cut a hole in the closed end of the cup to fit on the socket threads. Bend and drill the strap iron so that one end can be

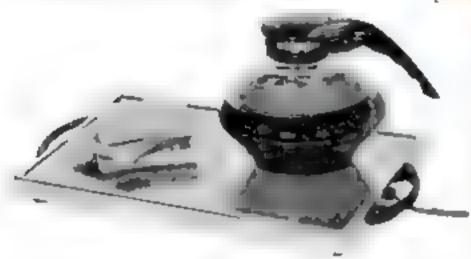
bolted to the saw. The other end is attached by a drop-cord grommet that threads into the socket.—V. H. Lamoy, Upper Jay, N. Y.

## Tube Holds Fishing Leader

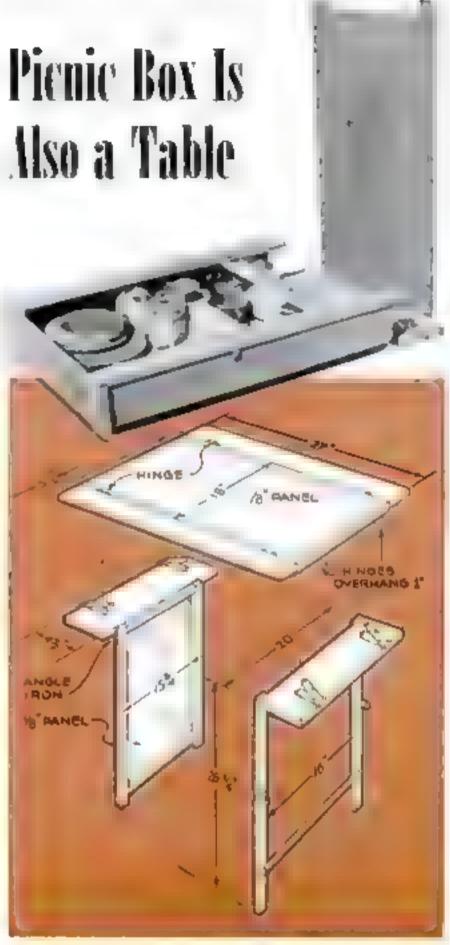


A PLASTIC, metal, or wood tube with a saw slot that makes a pinch fit for a fishing line allows quick attachment or adjustment of a leader. The line is looped through the tube and leader and hooked into the slot as shown.—A. Marks, Bayonne, N. J.

## Glass Tray Keeps Food Warm



THERE'S no trick to keeping a snack at serving temperature when you use this tray. It has a radiant-heated glass top. Plugged into an AC outlet, the tray heats to 200°. Thermostatic control keeps it there. The 9° by 14″ tray has chrome trim and plastic handles. It's made by Salton Manufacturing Co., N. Y. About \$11.



Goixe on a pienie? You can still eat your hunch thirty inches above the ants if you go prepared with this combined pienic box and table. It carries most of your supplies to start with, and when eating time rolls around you just have to fold down the top and sides to turn the box into a table. The top swings up, around, and down to make one pair of legs, and the other pair swings out the same way.

The unit shown was made mostly of salvaged lumber. All framing stock is %" and panels are %" composition board. Chief purchased items were four pair of hinges and four metal angles. Construction is simple, with plain butt joints. A light sanding and spar varnish finish it off.—Robert Hoppough, Waukegan, 1ll.

A siren generates sound waves when air blows through holes in a revolving disk. You can use a pie tin as the disk. In its bottom, punch a couple of rings of evenly spaced holes. Mount the tin on a motor shaft, start up the motor, and blow through a length of rubber tubing. Concentric rings of 24, 27, 30, 32, 36, 40, 45, and 48 holes will produce a full octave.

# Sound Waves in Action

WHEN a long train starts, you can see the first tug travel back from the engine through car after car. Compression waves carry sound much the same way.

All sounding bodies are in a state of vibration. Because of elasticity of the air or other carrying medium, the vibrating action causes alternate compression and expansion outward from the source.

Sound is a complex subject. You could spend a lifetime studying it. But there are a number of simple experiments that will give you an understanding of its basic characteristics.

You can produce sound by any means that gives vibrations within the frequency range audible to the human ear—from about 20 per second up to around 20,000 in exceptional cases. The homemade siren at the left is a good way to start your study.

From this, proceed to the experiments on the opposite page. The howler is a variation of a trick you've often done with empty bottles. Here, you get not just a single tone, but a howl of varying pitch. The vibrating air within the tube disturbs the water below.

For the sensitive flame, make a jet by drawing glass tubing to a point in a gas flame. Cut off the end square, leaving a hole not greater than 1 mm, in diameter, If the flame won't dance on the first try, file the jet to make the hole a trifle larger. The size of the hole is quite critical.

Connect the jet to your domestic-gas supply. Be sure to regulate the flow at just below the roaring point. If the flame refuses to roar, the pressure is too low for the stunt. Sound waves impinging upon the gas flowing from the jet cause the flame to dance,

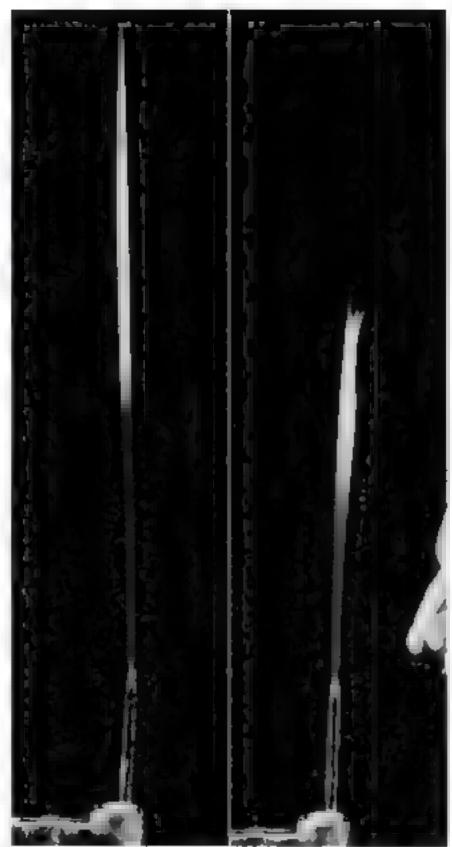
Use the same jet for the liquid experiment. Set up the apparatus as shown at the bottom of the page. Put ordinary photographic hypo in the glass, todine dissolved in a solution of potassium iodide in the bottle.—Kenneth M. Swezey, Brooklyn, N. Y.



You can focus and reflect sound waves. Suspend a watch over the center of an electric-heater reflector, put a cardboard cone to your ear, and you will hear the ticks many feet away.

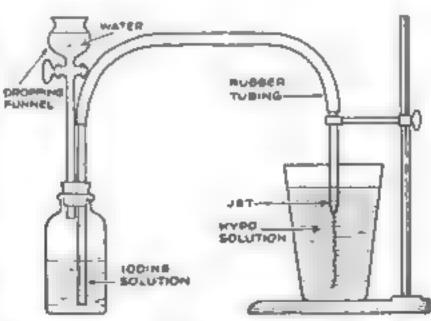


Homemade howler works on the same principle as organ pipes, whistles, and flutes. Blowing across tube sets enclosed air into vibration. Basing or lowering the tube varies the pitch



Sensitive flame gives visible evidence of the presence of sound waves. Regulate gas coming from jet so it's just below point where flame roars. Snap your fingers and flame will dance.

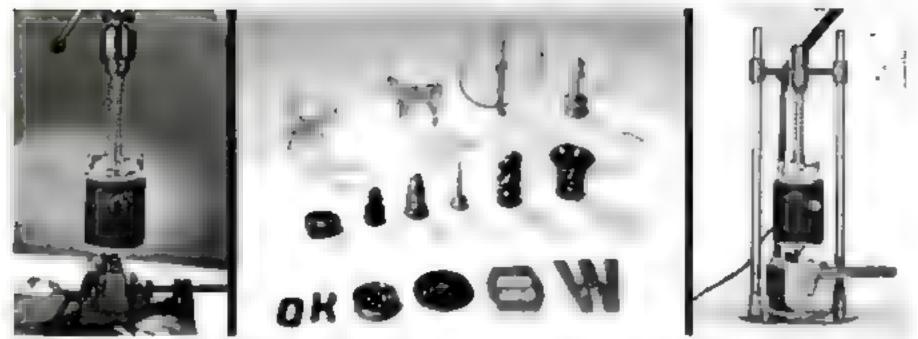




Liquids respond to sound waves, as this test shows. Put water into the funnel and let it run into the bottle at rate of a drop per second. Pressure forces rodine solution to flow If the room is quiet, flow will be straight as at left. Sharp sound produces result at right.



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Injection molding unit is shown at left chucked in drill press. At right, it is being used with the press manufactured for the purpose. Cen-

ter photo shows some of the objects turned out by the machine. The inset below shows the mold being removed from a quick-acting vise.

## Home Press Molds Thermoplastics

DESIGNED for either short runs or quantity production, Plast-O-Press<sup>®</sup> turns out 75 injection moldings an hour. The machine, manufactured by Plastics Development Corp., New York City, retails for about \$40. Experimental dies cost from \$2 to \$3.50. Dies made to order run from \$3 to \$10.

The unit can be chucked in a drill press or in a low-cost press built for the purpose by the manufacturer. In use, powdered plastic is poured into the chamber and the heat turned on. Temperature range is from 250° to 500° F. A mold then is locked in a clamp or vise beneath the chamber. The press handle is lowered with moderate pressure to force plastic into the mold.

Plast-O-Press has a capacity of % oz, and a piston diameter of 9/16". It operates on 110-115 volt AC-DC and draws 100 watts. Mold sizes are: 1/16" by 2%" by 2%"; 1/16" thick by 3" in diameter: and %" by 1%" by 1%".

3" in diameter: and 14" by 14" by 14". Thermosetting plastics used in the unit are

available in standard colors from the manufacturer in 1-, 5-, and 10-lb. cartons. Colors may be mixed to give a marble-like effect in the finished work.

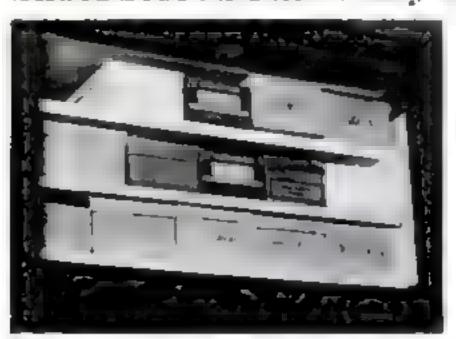
One of the machine's most interesting uses is molding

heads or knobs around screws. This is particularly useful in electrical and radio work. Such metal parts are inserted in the mold beforehand, so that the injected plastic flows around and locks them in.

The two halves of the mold can be clamped together in a drill-press vise or even with C clamps. A quick-acting vise, shown above, has a wedge to lock the mold in and a lever that instantly releases it.

Among the standard molds are buckles, checkers, buttons, and curtain pulls.

## Shoes Stored Out of Way in Shoe Boxes



OF ALL the solutions to the problem of storing shoes in the home, the simplest is probably the method used by shoe stores. Put the shoes back in their original boxes and stack them on shelves.

The shelves shown in the photo at left were put up without nails. They're simply boards resting on sidepieces 1" thick. This arrangement simplifies taking the boards down for cleaning. Distance between shelves should be 42" to 5". For men's shoes, shelves should be 13" deep, Label the boxes, -A. W. Drieting, McKeesport, Pa.

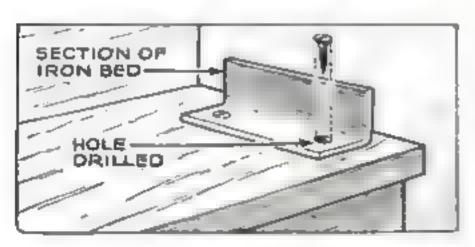
222 POPULAR SCIENCE

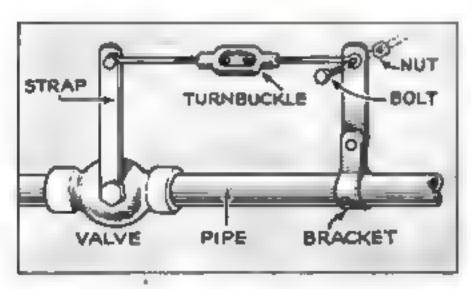
## Plastic Gadgets Answer Needs

FOLLOWING suggestions in PS' "I'd Like to See Them Make" department, two companies report that the products requested are now on the market,

The top photo at right shows a soap and washelbth holder that sticks to a smooth vertical surface with suction cups. For overthe-tub showers, a curtain with pockets to hold brushes, soap, and cloths was suggested. The holder shown here, manufactured by George M. Acker Co., Los Angeles, is priced at about \$2 and comes in three colors.

Pictured in the lower photo at right is a plastic measuring cup with a push-up bottom. It's used to measure shortening for recipes. It can be set for the amount—from 14 to 1 cup—and the shortening shoved out after filling it. Priced at 50 cents, it's distributed by Mutual Enterprises, Chicago.





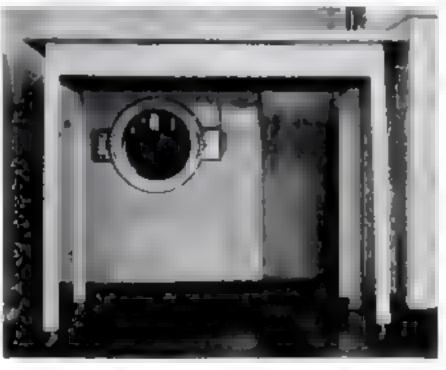
## Turnbuckle Sets Valves

MANUALLY operated valves that must be set exactly are often troublesome if you make the fine adjustment freehand. I solved the problem with the setup shown in the sketch. The handwheel was removed and a short strap substituted. A bracket was attached to the pipe a short distance from the valve and a turnbuckle rigged between. With the turnbuckle removed, a rough setting is made with the strap. Replaced, the turnbuckle makes the fine adjustment.—
George Burnley, Oakland, Calif.



## Scraper Cut from Old Bed

A SECTION of angle iron, cut from the sidepiece of an old bed, makes an excellent shoe scraper. Hacksaw the section to the length you want and then drill a hole near each end. Paint it carefully and fasten to the edge of a porch or on a step with wood screws.—Victor H. Lamoy, Upper Jay, N. Y.



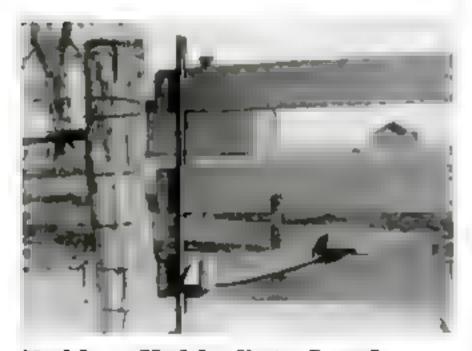
## Utility Table Rolls to Work

Large rubber-tired casters added to an old kitchen table converted it to an all-round utility table. Since it stands up high on the casters, it's handy beside a stove or froning board when extra table space is needed. It also acts as a hand truck for hauling large grocery orders from the back door to the cupboard.—I. S. Collis, Albuquerque, N. M.



## Jet Engine Beats Orchard

Outcomally designed for aircraft, a jet engine was converted to an orchard heater by Edward West, Jr., of Los Angeles. At high velocity, hot air is blasted out of the jet pipe, which is slanted toward the ground when in use. The air is deflected under the trees for two or three rows on each side of the heater. Weighing 200 lb., the heater uses the same fuel burned in smudge pots. In tests, the jet produced the same heating effect as 100 smudge pots, and of course requires less attention. In background is a motor-driven prop used by some growers to protect crops from frost.



## Rubber Holds Gate Latch

A STRIP cut from an old inner tube securely holds the pull-type latch of this gate in place. Stock or wind can't shake the gate open. The rubber is held by blocks nailed to the gate.—A, M. Wettach, Mt. Pleasant, Ia.

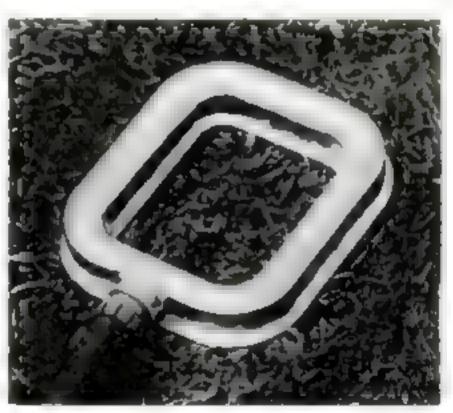


## Mower Pulls Trailer Seat

HERE'S what many owners of power lawn mowers dream about —a trader with a seat. The mower tows you around the yard as it cuts the grass, if the motor has enough beef. This trader has a welded frame slung between a pair of



scrap Model-A Ford wheels. The seat was salvaged from an old cultivator, Top photo shows Cleo Lange, Mt. Union, Ia., aboard.



## Square Squirt Squirts Squares

MANUFACTURED by the Melnor Metal Products Co., New York City, the Square Squirt® is designed for use on rectangular lawns. According to the company, it throws water into corners that the conventional sprayer can't reach without waste. It is made of brass with a standard hose fitting, has no moving parts, and is priced at about \$2.

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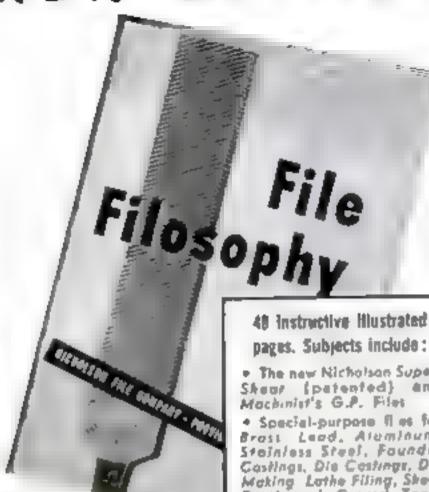
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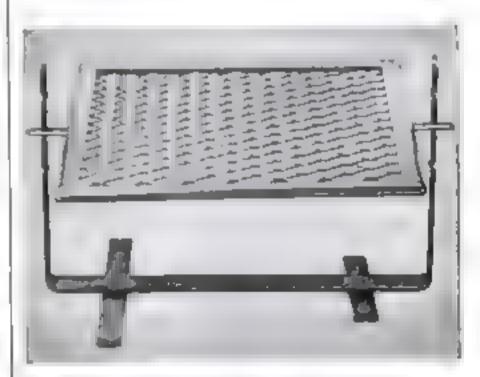


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## Delivery Car Opens Easily

You can lift the chrome-plated handle of this Harley-Davidson Servi-Caro with one hand-leaving the other free for loading bundles. The cover of the car's package compartment is reinforced by X-shaped metal strips, made of cold-rolled sheet steel.

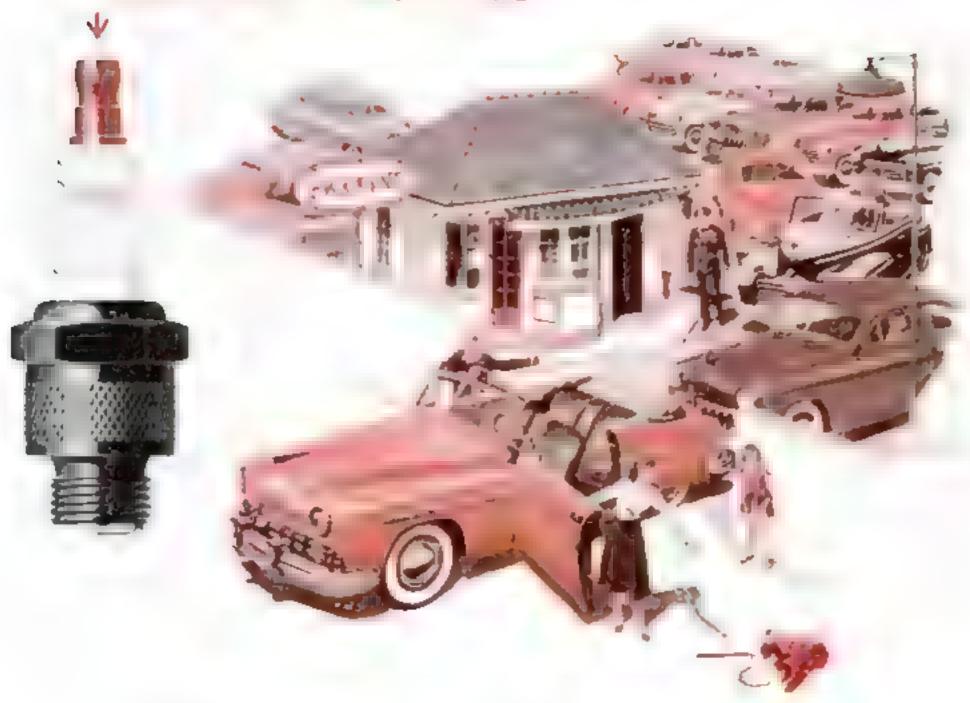


## Grill's Height Is Adjustable

This new 15- by 17-inch grill, for cooking on either indoor or outdoor fireplaces, is supported by a U-shaped frame with notches that let you adjust the grill to six, eight, or 10 inches above the fire. It can be disassembled easily and stored in a small place, Walter Burge, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., developed the Barbegril®.



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Training bomber crews now requires real targets and imaginary bombs, instead of the other way around, because radar is used almost exclusively. The radar-scope picture of a landmark that identifies the target looks quite different from an aerial photograph of the same landmark. So the radar men must learn to recognize bridges, railroad yards, and so on, by flying over the real thing. That means their bombs can not be the real thing.

To score the training crews on the accuracy of make-believe bombs, the Air Force uses radar sets. A ground crew near the target tracks the bombing airplane and gets a radio signal at the instant of "bombs away." Knowing the plane's speed and direction, wind direction, and ballistic data for the "bombs," the operators can compute the point that would have been hit—if there had been a real bomb.

# RED X WAR SURFLUS \$\$\$\$ SAVERS

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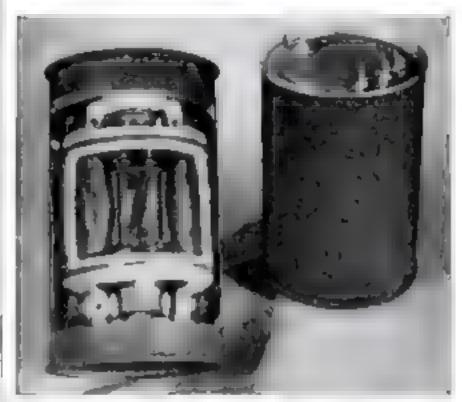
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PILOTS can read their altitude faster, easier, and with less chance of error with the new altimeter at left above. Called the Kollsman 1600, it has a two-digit counter that shows altitude directly in thousands of feet, while a single sweep hand marks off additional altitude in 50-foot graduations. With the old-type altimeter, at right, it takes three hands-and some careful figuring-to get the same reading. To make possible the new indicator, engineers had to develop a lightweight cylinder counter that requires 20 times less torque to turn it than any existing counter.



## Canning a Dynamotor

THE tin cans above don't hold food, but they're the same kind that do. They contain tiny dynamotors, used to operate electrical equipment in airplanes. dynamotors are bermetically sealed in the cans at sea-level pressure to keep them operating efficiently at high altitudes where reduced pressures would tend to throw them off. When repairs are needed, they can be opened with a ordinary can opener, then resealed in fresh cans. Bendix Aviation developed the method, and American Can supplies the containers,





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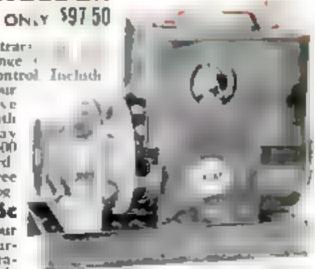
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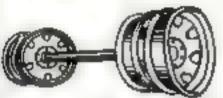
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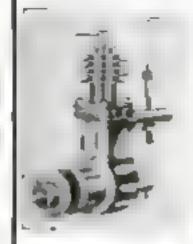


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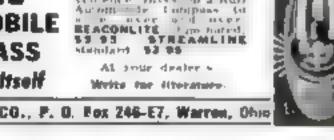
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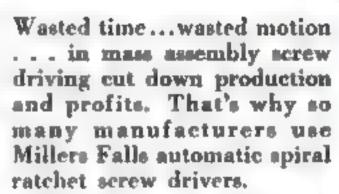






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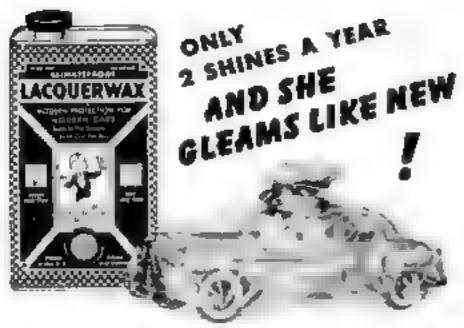
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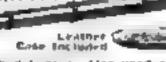
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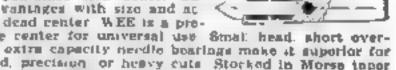
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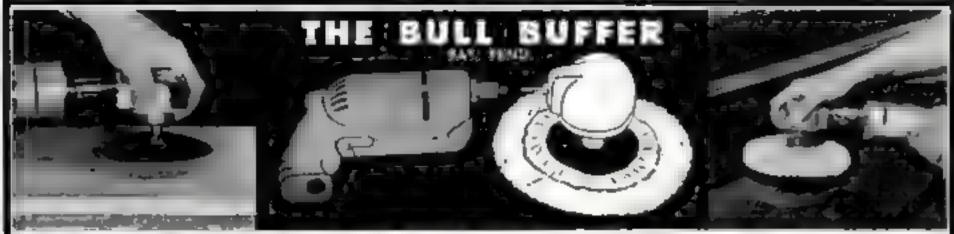
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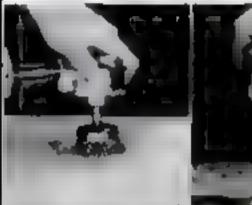


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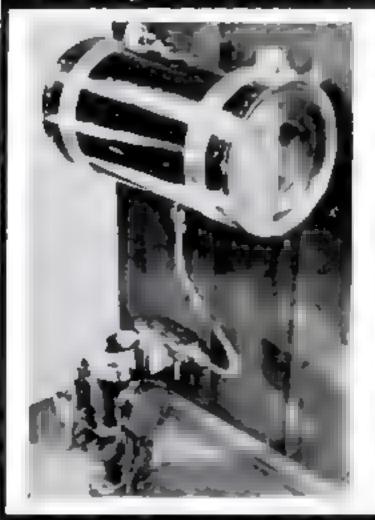
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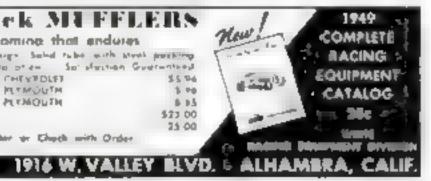
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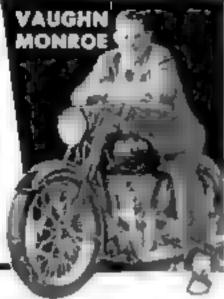
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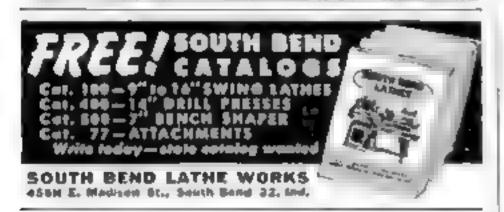
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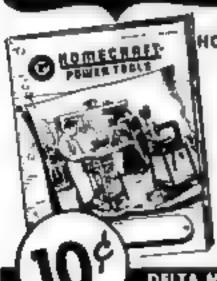
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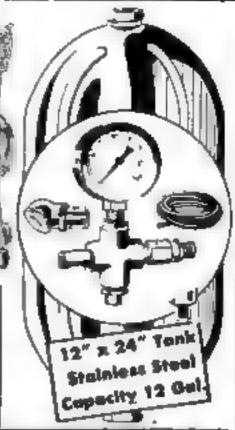
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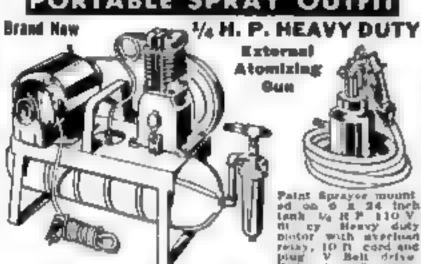
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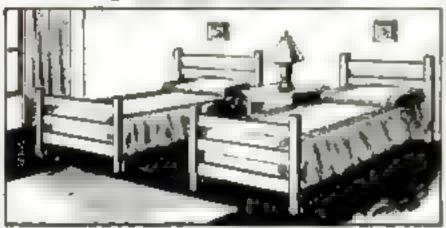


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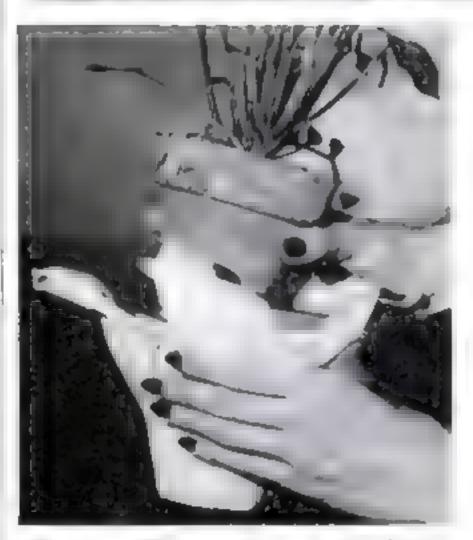
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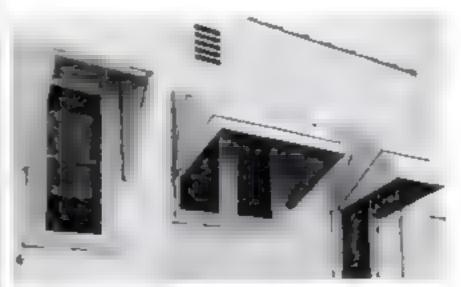
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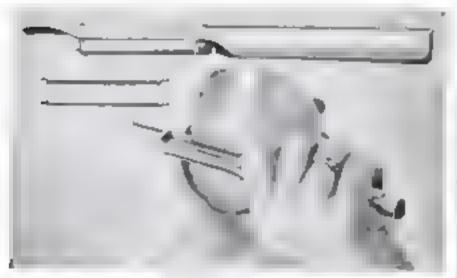
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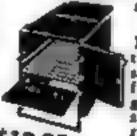




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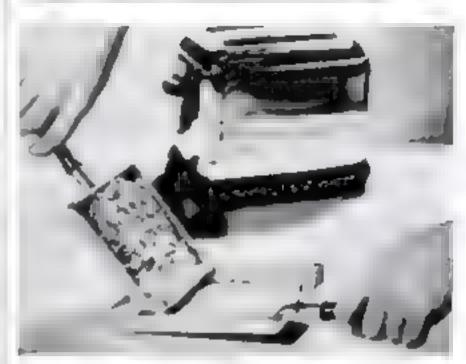
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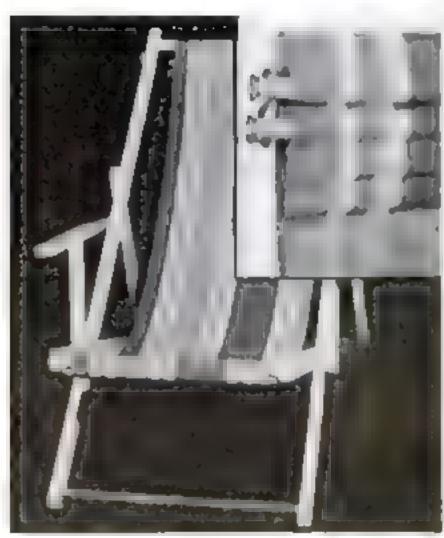
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Meters Coffee Automatically. Each time the knob is turned the Coffee. Metro pours out a teaspoonful of coffee. Flavor is retained by the air-tight friction cap. The plastic dispenser and a 1-lb. decorated jar retail for \$1. Over-all height of the jar and dispenser is about 10". The maker is Steward Industries, Inc., Chicago.



Reach chairs that are ready for the discard because of damaged canvas can be given new life with this replacement seat. No sewing or tacking is necessary. After the old canvas is cut off, the new seat is snapped in place with rustproof hooks. The price is \$1.89, M. D. Pinner Company, New York.



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Ladd Haystead-agricultural counselor.

DED-FACED and hearty, Ladd Haystead R pushed his chair back and roared. The idea was preposterous. He should know. Furnigate the soil? Been tried thousands of times. It never worked. Terrific story, of course, if true, but it can't be true. Sure, be would look in on it, because he was going to that part of California anyway. But smart editors don't reserve space for stories that haven't a thousand-to-one chance.

That was early last winter. Haystead went West, and we stayed East, never giving the thousand-to-one shot another thought. Then in February came a wire from San Francisco:

SOIL RENOVATION STORY STANDS UP DEFINITELY. HAVE WORKED IT FOR FOUR HUNDRED MILES BUT WILL HAVE TO FIN-ISH IN EAST WHERE I HAVE BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND STATISTICS. HAYSTEAD.

So the big guy in the checkered shirt had changed his mind. You can read the results on page 104. With his telegram, and later with his story, our skepticism disappeared. For, despite some mysterious aspects of George Woods' machine, we know that the machine works-because Haystead says so. He talked to farmers for miles around, gathered their affidavits, and wrote his story. He is a good reporter. His name and reputation as a farm journalist mean as much to him as the name of POPULAR SCIENCE does to us.

Haystead calls himself an "agricultural

# Reader

# What Haystead Sees You Can Believe

counselor." That's fancy language for a working farmer and farm journalist. He has studred farmers, farms, and farming in all 48 states, has owned or managed farms in 15 of them. He writes for farmers, and about them. His interpreter's role is unique: industrialists hire Haystead to tell them what farmers need, farmers pay to read Haystead on industry and industrial products for the farm.

Twice a year he listens and talks his way up and down and across this country. Six feet two, and well over 200 pounds, he might have been a Northwest logger, and was. His voice is that of a played-out foghorn-at 14 he ran away to join a circus and became a carnival barker. His wit is Irish, and so is Haystead. He is also combative; you will understand why if you can find a copy of "Preacher's Kid" (Putnam), in which he tells of life out of a Presbyterian pursonage on the British Columbia-Washington border about 35 years ago.

As a kid he beat a path between the local print shop and the frontier farm where he lived. He has maintained that dual arrangement ever since. He is a great believer in the American soil, and in the American men and women who work it for a living. He wouldn't be telling the story of George Woods and his soil furnigator if he didn't believe it would

help them.

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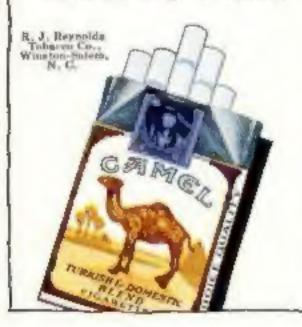
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